MARVEL

AVENGERS

BY BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS
THE COMPLETE COLLECTION

AVENGERS

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WRITTEN BY BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS

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AVENGERS PRIME 1

EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES UNITED AGAINST A COMMON THREAT!
ON THAT DAY THE AVENGERS WERE BORN — TO FIGHT FOES
THAT NO SINGLE HERO COULD WITHSTAND!

NORMAN OSBORN'S SIEGE IS OVER AND THE REUNITED AVENGERS
WERE TRIUMPHANT. STEVE ROGERS, THE MAN WHO WAS CAPTAIN
AMERICA, IS NOW IN CHARGE OF THE UNITED STATES SECURITY.

BUT ALL THIS WAS NOT WITHOUT COST.
THE GREAT CITY OF ASGARD HAS FALLEN.

ASGARD HAS FALLEN.

THOR, TELL US WHAT YOU NEED AND YOU WILL HAVE IT.

JUST SEEING IT LIKE THIS...

...MY FATHER'S KINGDOM IN COMPLETE RUIN.

HEY, ANYTHING CAN BE REBUILT.

ANYTHING.

EVERY TIME I'VE HAD TO REBUILD THIS ARMOR, I'VE ALWAYS MADE IT BETTER. EVERY TIME.

WAIT TILL YOU SEE MY NEW STUFF.

I'M NOT CONVINCED LETTING YOU KEEP THAT ARMOR IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE COUNTRY, IRON MAN.

I HAVEN'T MADE UP MY MIND.

WE'LL SEE.

WE'LL SEE WHAT?

OH REALLY?

YOU KNEW THIS CONVERSATION WAS COMING.

DID I?

WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME.

WELL, CAPTAIN ROGERS, OR WHATEVER THE HELL WE'RE SUPPOSED TO CALL YOU NOW THAT YOU'RE THE NEW NICK FURY...

DON'T GET ON YOUR HIGH--

I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING I **PROMISE** IS TRUE.

I KNEW YOU'D BE LIKE THIS--

THERE WILL **NEVER** BE AN APPROPRIATE TIME TO TELL ME THAT I CAN'T HAVE WHAT IS **RIGHTFULLY MINE.**

WELL, LOOK WHO'S ALL FOR CIVIL RIGHTS ALL OF A SUDDEN.

THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ANYTHING--

FINE.

I THINK, GUYS, WE SHOULD FIRST DO A HEAD COUNT AND MAKE SURE NO ONE IS MISSING OR TRAPPED.

HOLD ON, PEPPER.

SO, WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS THESE **INALIENABLE RIGHTS** THAT YOU WERE WILLING TO DIE FOR-- FREEDOM OF POWER, ALL THAT...

ALL OF THAT GOES **OUT THE WINDOW** NOW THAT **YOU'RE IN CHARGE!**

I'M SAYING THAT IT WAS ***YOU*** WHO PUT THIS ENTIRE COUNTRY IN DANGER WHEN YOU LET A MANIAC LIKE NORMAN OSBORN HAVE THE ***KEYS TO YOUR ARMORY!***

I DID WHAT?

I LET HIM--?

UH-OH.

WE'RE LUCKY HE DIDN'T NUKE THE *PLANET*, TONY. THAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED.

*I **LET** HIM DO WHAT?*

BY TRYING-- LISTEN--BY TRYING TO GET THE AMERICAN TAXPAYERS TO FOOT THE BILL FOR YOUR TOY BOX YOU LED THIS COUNTRY DOWN A PATH THAT LED TO NORMAN OSBORN GETTING HIS HANDS ON IT.

*THAT IS A **MASSIVE** OVER-SIMPLIFICATION--*

*THAT IS **EXACTLY** WHAT HAPPENED.*

*I WAS WORKING FOR THE GOVERNMENT-- **OUR** GOVERNMENT AT THE--*

YOU ALLOWED THIS-- ALL OF THIS--

IF YOU TWO ARE HERE ON MY BEHALF...

...PLEASE FEEL FREE TO TAKE YOUR LEAVE.

I'M SORRY, THOR. NO. NO, WE'RE HERE FOR YOU.

TELL US WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

THERE IS ONE GENUINE CONCERN.

THIS IS MIGHTY HEIMDALL'S OBSERVATORY. THIS IS HOW THE ASGARDIANS TRAVEL TO ALL THE DIMENSIONS OF THE NINE REALMS.

OSBORN REALLY DID A NUMBER ON IT.

IT SEEMS IT WAS GROUND ZERO FOR THE FIRST ATTACK.

NO ONE GETS IN. NO ONE GETS OUT. MAKES SENSE.

IT WOULD SEEM.

WHERE IS HEIMDALL?

HE IS RECOVERING. HIS WOUNDS WERE SEVERE.

HOW SEVERE?

I AM TOLD HE WILL SURVIVE.

GOOD. THAT'S GOOD.

BUT I WORRY ABOUT SUCH A POWERFUL DEVICE BEING SO DAMAGED.

HERE ON EARTH.

WITHOUT HEIMDALL'S GUIDANCE, I WORRY--

IT'S VERY HARD TO GET AN ENERGY READING.

ASGARDIAN ENERGIES ARE ALWAYS HARD TO CATALOG.

AND IT DOESN'T HELP THAT I'M USING ARMOR FROM TEN DESIGNS AGO.

I WORRY THAT THE RAINBOW BRIDGE HAS BEEN BROKEN AND WHAT THAT DOES TO THE REALMS.

AND NOW WE HAVE A BROKEN PORTAL HERE ON EARTH THAT LEADS TO WHERE EXACTLY?

OKAY. IT HAS TO BE CLOSED UP UNTIL HEIMDALL CAN HELP US FIX IT.

YES, EXACTLY.

WE'LL BARRICADE IT UP UNTIL--

THAT MAY NOT BE ENOUGH.

WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE US DO?

I'LL GATHER THE ASGARDIANS TO HELP US FIND THE BREAKS IN THE PORTAL AND THEN WE CAN--

ALERT!

WAIT!

WHOA!

OH MY GOD!

OKAY, WHAT WAS THAT?!

AND CAN WE NOT DO IT AGAIN?

UM, WHERE DID THE OTHERS GO?

TONY?

CAPTAIN ROGERS?

UH-OH.

WHERE'D THEY GO?

ONLY THE ALL-FATHER KNOWS.

UH...WE NEED TO SEAL THAT OFF.

TONY?!

ARMOR?

ARMOR.

SYSTEMS SCAN.

ARMOR?

ENVIRONMENT SCAN.

PLEASE DON'T BE A COFFIN.

PLEASE DON'T BE IN A COFFIN.

DAMN 3.8 DESIGN.

RRR-- ***GET OFF!***

GREAT.

THOR?

CAP?

ARMOR?

MY KINGDOM FOR A RADIO SHACK.

3.8 DESIGN.

3.8 DESIGN.

YEAH, YEAH... I REMEMBER NOW.

DIGITAL FINGERPRINT LOCK SEQUENCE.

AH. THERE WE GO.

THE SELF REPAIR KIT.

I DO LOVE ME SOMETIMES.

ACTUALLY, MY KINGDOM FOR A COFFEE.

OH, UH, HI.

YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO BE A BARISTA...WOULD YOU?

HMM.

UH-OH.

ИСН!

MY SINCERE APOLOGIES FOR DISTURBING YOUR EVENING.

WOULD ANY OF YOU BE ABLE TO TELL ME WHERE I AM?

I AM AN ALLY OF LORD THOR. I NEED HELP.

CAN YOU TELL ME WHERE I AM?

YOU'RE AN ALLY OF THE LORD THOR?

SON OF ODIN?

YES. ENGLISH. GOOD.

THERE WAS SOME SORT OF AN ACCIDENT--

EAT HIM!

DOWN WITH THE ALL-FATHER!

DOWN WITH THE HOUSE OF ODIN!

WELL, I MISREAD THE ROOM ENTIRELY.

SMAK

AGH!

I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT YOU.

AAAIIEE!

KRAK

I JUST NEED TO KNOW WHERE I AM SO I CAN GET OUT OF HERE.

AAGGH!

GAAGGH!

ZZZZZZiiiZ ZZZZZZ

SHUK

IT'S ONLY A MIDGARD RAT!

HOW MANY WILL IT TAKE FOR YOU TO STOP THIS?

POK

FHAK

HUMAN!

GOT THAT RIGHT.

KRAK

YOU WILL NOT--

AAAGGHH!

NARGH!

THUD

KRAK

I ASKED YOU A SIMPLE QUESTION!

NOOAAGGH!

WHERE AM I--?!

VANAHEIM.

PEOPLE OF VANAHEIM!!

THIS IS NOT AS IT SHOULD BE.

THIS COURTYARD SHOULD BE FILLED WITH VANAHEIM'S MOST GLOR--

KRAKKK

REVEAL YOURSELF, COWARD. THE FIGHT WILL BE--

KRKOM

KRAKOOM

KRAKOOM

KRAKOOM

I TOLD YOU THE FIRST MOMENT WE EVER MET, LORD THOR.

THE ENCHANTRESS WILL HAVE HER DAY OF VENGEANCE UPON YOU AND YOUR HOUSE.

ASGARD HAS FALLEN, ODIN HAS FALLEN, LOKI HAS FALLEN.

I SADLY MISSED ALL OF THAT.

BUT THE GODS SENT YOU TO ME. YOU ARE THE LAST OF THE TRUE ODINSONS.

AND YOU ARE NO MORE.

OOOO

AVENGERS PRIME 2

MIGHTY THOR. MY DARLING...

ON YOUR KNEES IN FRONT OF ME.

MMM!

I BELIEVE I NEED TO TAKE A MOMENT HERE AND JUST...ENJOY THIS.

THOUGH I TRULY THOUGHT THAT MY CHANCES HAD PASSED ME BY...

I'D ASK YOU WHAT HAVE YOU DONE HERE, ENCHANTRESS, BUT I KNOW YOU'D ONLY LIE!

WHAT I HAVE DONE?

ODINSON, YOU NEED TO ASK YOURSELF WHAT *YOU* HAVE DONE!

DON'T SPEAK TO ME IN CIRCLES AND HALF TRUTHS, HARLOT!

YOU'RE A LIAR AND A WITCH!

EVEN WHAT YOU *DON'T* SAY IS A LIE!

I AM DONE WITH YOU, ENCHANTRESS.

I STAY MY HAND AGAINST YOU OUT OF *PITY!*

SWOOSH

YOU REALLY ARE JUST LIKE YOUR BROTHER! YOU KNOW THAT, DON'T YOU?

NEITHER OF YOU EVER TAKES RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR ACTIONS OR THE ACTIONS OF YOUR FATHER'S HOUSE!

MMMM...

LACRTIVAI MASHAMALA.

KRK

BOOM

FOUL.

AARGHH!

FOR EVERY DEFEAT.

FOR EVERY WRONG.

AT LEAST I GET THIS.

YOU CHOSE POORLY, AMORA.

NO.

BLUTANI SCLANATA!

BLUTANI SCLANATA!

SKREW

BOM

YOU REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND, DO YOU?

YOU DID THIS. YOU BROUGHT THIS.

YOU DON'T GET TO LEAVE HERE.

THIS IS YOUR LIFE NOW.

WHAT ARE YOU RAVING ABOUT?!

WHERE ARE WE?!

WHERE YOU PUT US!

UH, HI.

MY NAME IS TONY STARK.

IRON MAN.

RING ANY BELLS?

KINDA SORTA FAMOUS WHERE I'M FROM...

THOUGHT MAYBE IT TRANSLATED OUTSIDE MY...

YOU DIDN'T HAPPEN TO SEE THOR AROUND HERE?

HE'S A PERSONAL FRIEND.

THOR? GOD OF THUNDER? EASY ON THE EYES?

THOR?

NO? NOTHING.

OKAY... THEN...

YOU WOULD *DARE* STRIKE A *WIZARD?!*

YOU WOULD *DARE?!*

I'M SORRY.

ARE YOU STUPID?

OR DO YOU THINK *US* STUPID?

HMM.

CAN I GET BACK TO YOU ON THAT ONE?

YOU SURRENDER THEN?

UM... TECHNICALLY.

BUT ONLY BECAUSE I'M OVERPOWERED AND COMPLETELY SURROUNDED.

GOOD MORTAL.

"MORTAL."

WOULD YOU MIND TELLING ME WHERE I AM AND WHO I AM SURRENDERING TO?

ONE COULD SAY THAT ANY SURRENDER IS, IN FACT, A SURRENDER TO ONESELF.

UH-HUH.

THEN LET'S START WITH THE *"WHERE I ACTUALLY AM"* PART.

AND PLEASE DON'T SAY ANYTHING LIKE--

YOU'RE ON A PATH OF YOUR OWN CHOOSING.

LIKE THAT.

NO, SEE, I AM ACTUALLY NOT ON A PATH OF MY OWN CHOOSING.

I WAS WITH YOUR LORD THOR AND WE ACCIDENTALLY WERE TRANSPORTED TO--

OUR LORD THOR?

YES. HE IS MY ALLY AND I NEED TO KNOW IF HE WAS ALSO TRANSPORTED TO WHEREVER--

SMACK

I NEED TO STUDY MY ASGARDIAN LORE.

HELLO?

MY NAME IS STEVE ROGERS. DO ANY OF YOU SPEAK THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE?

I ALSO KNOW A LITTLE ITALIAN.

PINK ANIMAL!

KLANG

THAK

KANG

nanARRGH!

SLAK

SHUK

nanARRGH!

KRNG

GARRGH!

THRAK

NOW GO AWAY!

HUK

nanARRGH!

I'M NOT HERE TO FIGHT.

I'M HERE-- I'M JUST TRYING TO FIND MY WAY HOME.

THEN YE HAVE A TASK AHEAD OF YOU, IT WOULD SEEM.

YOU'RE FAR FROM A WORLD WHERE THY KIND MIGHT LIVE.

MY KIND? DO YOU KNOW WHAT MY KIND IS?

NO.

BUT I KNOW IT'S A KIND I HAVE NEVER SEEN BEFORE.

IF I HAD TO GUESS, I'D GUESS... MIDGARD.

MIDGARD IS--

EARTH?

YES.

WHERE AM I NOW? WHERE IS THIS?

LET ME TEND TO THAT SHOULDER, EARTHER.

NO. I NEED TO--I NEED TO FIND THOR.

I DON'T KNOW WHERE LORD THOR IS.

IT'S A LITTLE ABOVE THY LIFE CIRCLE.

I'LL BE OKAY.

WE'RE NOT ALL LIKE MY BROTHERS.

LET ME TEND YOUR WOUND.

WE BRING AN OFFERING, LORD FAFNIR.

THIS IS A HUMAN. AN EARTHER.

AYE. AND HE THINKS QUITE A LOT OF HIMSELF.

IS HE WORTH ANYTHING TO YOU?

NOT PARTICULARLY. HIS ARMOR IS INCOMPLETE. AND UGLY.

HE SAID HE WAS AN ALLY OF THE "LORD THOR."

LORD THOR?

HE *SAID* "LORD THOR?"

VERY CLEARLY.

WELL, THAT'S A DIFFERENT POND ALL TOGETHER.

THOR KILLED ME ONCE.

YOU REMIND ME OF AN OLD FRIEND.
WAS SHE KIND?
SHE WAS. SHE WAS A HERO.
AND IT MAKES YOU SAD TO THINK OF HER?
WANDA. YES.
DID YOU LOVE HER?
ROMANTICALLY? NO. NO, NOTHING LIKE THAT.
I JUST--I DIDN'T DO ENOUGH FOR HER. I COULDN'T HELP HER WHEN SHE NEEDED HELP.
AND NOW I-- I'M GETTING A SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE...
A THIRD CHANCE, REALLY.
AND I--I THINK I MAY BE MAKING THE SAME MISTAKES AGAIN.
I'M FIGHTING WITH MY BROTHERS WHEN I FEEL NOTHING BUT LOVE AND RESPECT FOR THEM.
I STAND MY GROUND ON PRINCIPLES WHEN ALL I REALLY WANT TO DO IS--
UM...
WHY AM I POURING MYSELF OUT LIKE THIS?
THAT WOULD BE MY DOING, MORTAL.
I am... EMPATHIC.
DON'T BE ASHAMED OF YOUR TRUE FEELINGS. THEY'RE QUITE BEAUTIFUL.
EMPATHIC?
HOW DID YOU COME TO BE HERE?
THERE WAS-- THERE WAS AN ACCIDENT.
ON YOUR EARTH.
YES.
WITH THOR.
YES. AND ANOTHER.
AND I'M NOT SURE IF IT'S ONLY--
IF I'M THE ONLY ONE OF US THAT ENDED UP HERE, OR IF IT WAS ALL THREE OF US.
PLEASE... WHERE AM I?

TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION YOU HAVE TO ASK ANOTHER.

WHERE IS ASGARD?

YOU KNOW WHERE IT IS.

IT'S ON EARTH.

ASGARD IS ON MIDGARD?

YES.

I-IS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE?

IT IS.

THAT I-I HAD NOT HEARD.

WHY?

DOES THAT SEEM NATURAL TO YOU?

THERE ARE NINE REALMS. NINE. NINE WORLDS OF ASGARD'S RULE.

NINE!

BUT NOW ONE OF THEM, ASGARD ITSELF, THE GOLDEN JEWEL OF ODIN'S CORRUPT, MALIGNANT KINGDOM, RESIDES IN THE SOWHEAP OF THE UNIVERSE.

MIDGARD.

AND NOW THESE SEA RATS ARE ALLOWED TO ENTER OUR REALM UNATTENDED?

THOR'S FRIENDS ARE ALLOWED HERE TO--

TO WHAT?

TO MOCK US?

TO PILLAGE US LIKE THEY DO THEMSELVES?

WHY?

DOES THAT SEEM AT ALL RIGHT TO YOU?

IT IS THE WAY THINGS ARE NOW.

BECAUSE YOU ALLOWED IT.

BECAUSE YOU AND YOUR FATHER ALLOWED IT.

AND NOW LOOK WHAT HAS HAPPENED.

DON'T SPEAK IN CIRCLES! TELL ME TRUE... WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

WHERE *ARE* WE?

THE REALMS HAVE FALLEN INTO DARK TIMES.

ALL THE VILLAGERS THINK-- IT FEELS AS IF THEY'VE BLED INTO EACH OTHER.

ON TOP OF EACH OTHER.

OUR BLUE SKIES HAVE BURNT TO ORANGE. OUR--OUR DAYS HAVE TURNED TO NIGHT.

BLOOD FLOWS IN EVERY RIVER AND LAKE.

THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WHAT WAS TRULY GOOD AND WHAT WAS NOT.

HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

YOU DESTROYED THE BALANCE OF THE REALMS AND, IN DOING SO, YOU RIPPED YOUR FATHER'S EMPIRE INTO A NIGHTMARE.

THIS IS NOT MY FAULT!

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THIS IS!

OF COURSE THIS IS THOR'S FAULT.

THOR, ODIN, LOKI, THEIR GAMES. THEIR MACHINATIONS!

EVEN IN DEATH, ODIN'S MYOPIC RULE BLANKETS US IN FILTH AND DESPAIR.

I DO NOT TRUST YOU, WITCH.

I WANT TO SEE THIS NIGHTMARE FOR MYSELF.

IF THIS WORLD IS BROKEN, I WILL FIX IT.

IF YOU WANT TO HELP... HELP.

BUT DO NOT STAY MY HAND ANY LONGER.

THE OINTMENTS WILL HEAL YOU QUICKLY. IF THOU STAYEST CALM AND DRY.

BUT I FEAR YOU WILL DO NEITHER.

I HAVE TO FIND MY FRIENDS.

FFAARRGH!

SO NOW, WE HAVE SOMETHING THAT WILL HURT THE HOUSE OF ODIN.

OH, YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME.

I CAN'T HELP YOU. ALL I KNOW IS THIS VILLAGE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS.

YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO THE ENCHANTRESS, LORD THOR.

YOU...

YOU'RE A BEAUTIFUL SOUL.

THIS IS A GIFT.

THIS PINK PIGLET. THIS IS THE FORM OF JUSTICE AND RETRIBUTION...

AND YOU-- *AAARRGGHH!*

WHAT WERE YOU BEFORE YOU BECAME MY TOOL OF DESTRUCTION?

I WAS-- *ARGH*--STARK EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH, THREE MONTHS IN *AAAGGH!*

HE *IS* ARROGANT.

YES.

AAAGGHH!

I TOLD YOU, YOU CANNOT LEAVE, I CANNOT LEAVE...

SHE IS TOO POWERFUL NOW. THIS IS HER WORLD.

THANK YOU FOR ACKNOWLEDGING THIS, AMORA...

WITH ASGARD GONE, THE BALANCE OF THE UNIVERSE WAS UPSET.

AND LO, THERE CAME A DAY. A DAY LIKE NONE OTHER...WHEN HELA, GODDESS OF DEATH, CAME TO WHAT IS LEFT OF THE NINE REALMS AND REMADE THEM IN HER IMAGE.

WHERE THERE WAS HOPE, THERE IS NOW FEAR...

WHERE THERE WAS BIRTH, THERE IS NOW BLOOD.

AND WHERE YOUR FATHER ONCE STOOD, THAT IS WHERE I AM.

YOU WILL NOT PREVAIL.

THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT, IN DEATH, YOU WILL BE MY PRIZED POSSESSION.

WHAT IS THAT?

WHAT IS THAT?

IT'S A SIGN.

THAT WOULD BE A CERTAIN GOD OF THUNDER.

OH...YOU BETTER RUN.

Jim Cheung & Shaltie Young

Artists, Front & Inks

AVENGERS PRIME 3

HELA!

YOU WITCH FROM HELL!

HOW ARE YOU DOING THIS? WHERE HAS THIS NEW POWER COME FROM?!

HOW HAVE YOU DONE THIS?

YOU JUST CAME RIGHT OUT AND ASKED ME?

HOW NOVEL OF YOU, LORD THOR.

I'M ALMOST INCLINED TO OBLIGE YOUR POLITENESS.

KA-

almost.

THE HOW MATTERS NOT, BEASTWOMAN!

SURRENDER, ODINSON!

FOR ONCE IN YOUR LIFE BE SMARTER THAN YOUR FATHER WAS.

KNOW WHEN YOUR DAY IS DONE.

KA-

DO YOU SEE THAT LIGHTNING?

JUST SO WE'RE PERFECTLY CLEAR. THAT MEANS THOR, THE GOD OF THUNDER, IS HERE.

MY FRIEND, THOR.

AND HE'S COMING FOR ME.

SO HERE'S THE DEAL...TO THE ONE OF YOU THAT IS SMART ENOUGH TO LET ME LOOSE RIGHT THIS VERY SECOND...I WILL TELL THOR NOT TO SMITE THE #$%^ OUT OF HIM.

THE ONE THAT LETS ME GO GETS TO WALK OUT OF HERE.

YOU GET TO GO HOME TO YOUR LI'L OGRES AND YOUR OGRE WIFE.

THE REST OF YOU ARE GOING TO FEEL THAT VERY ***SPECIAL*** PAIN THAT COMES WITH THE GOD OF THUNDER HITTING YOU WITH A VERY LARGE BOLT OF GOD LIGHTNING.

SO THE QUESTION IS THIS...

DO ANY OF YOU ACTUALLY THINK DRAGON MAN HERE HAS GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO TAKE ON *THOR?!*

BECAUSE I'M LOOKING RIGHT AT HIM, AND I DON'T.

YOU LITTLE HUMAN PIECE OF--

I THINK YOU OGRE GUYS ARE ON THE WRONG SIDE OF A LOPSIDED BATTLE.

YOU THINK WE'RE *SCARED* OF THOR?!

AGH!

YOU THINK WE'RE NOT READY TO *DIE* IN BATTLE?!

YOU KNOW NOT WHAT IT IS LIKE TO HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE!

NOW YOU WILL.

THOR HAS RETURNED!

HE'LL KILL US ALL FOR THIS!

YOU IDIOTS!

YOU'RE LETTING HIM GET INSIDE YOUR HEADS!

HE'S TELLING YOU A FALSEHOOD!

DON'T YOU SEE? HE IS NOTHING BUT A SHARP-TONGUED DEVIL WHO WILL SAY ANYTHING THAT--

SKRRR

DO SHUT UP!

RRUUGHAR

YAAGGH!

REALLY SHOULD HAVE KEPT UP WITH MY RIDING LESSONS...

WHERE?!

WHAT ARE YOU, HUMAN?!

AAWWW... WELL...HELL!

aaiiee!

HE'LL END

AGH!

NNNAAAAAYYYYY!

AAGGH!

NNIIEE!

SOME HORSE!

THE END

AGH!

HUMAN!

HUMAN

KNG

MMRR!

RUURRR!

STEVE ROGERS.

HHAARRR!

GGKK!

WHAT WAS THIS I JUST HIT?

HELL IF I KNOW.

WELL, IT'S DONE.

WELL DONE, MAY I ADD.

BOY, AM I HAPPY TO SEE YOU, STEVE.

I TAKE BACK ALMOST EVERYTHING I HAVE EVER SAID.

WHY ARE YOU NAKED?

IT'S MY NEW ARMOR. IT'S SEE-THROUGH.

JOKES? REALLY?

IT'S VERY HIGH-TECH.

HOLD ON A SECOND.

WHO'S NEXT?!

WELL, OKAY THEN.

WHERE'D YOU GET THE SWORD AND STUFF?

I TOOK IT FROM SOME ELVES.

OF COURSE YOU DID.

GO PUT YOUR ARMOR BACK ON. WE HAVE TO GO HELP THOR.

DO YOU KNOW WHERE WE ARE?
READING, PENNSYLVANIA.
WHAT?
I WAS TRYING TO BE FUNNY.
TRY HARDER.
IT'S ONE OF THE NINE REALMS.
I DON'T KNOW MY NINE REALMS VERY WELL.
DID I SAY THANKS BEFORE?
YOU ACTUALLY DID. WHICH WAS A PLEASANT SURPRISE.
DON'T BE SNIPPY. WE'RE HAVING KIND OF A BONDING MOMENT.
YOU READY?
ALL I NEED IS AN OUTLET AND AN AC ADAPTOR.
YOU USED THAT LINE DURING THE WHOLE KORVAC THING.
AND MANY TIMES SINCE.
I'M NOT CHARGED AND I'M OFFLINE.
THIS IS JUST A SUIT OF ARMOR FOR NOW.
WHERE WE ARE...THAT MIGHT BE ALL YOU NEED.
AND I HAVE MY ROLLER SKATES IF WE, YOU KNOW, FIND ANY PAVEMENT.
HOP ON.
THERE'S GOT TO BE ANOTHER HORSE RUNNING AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE.
HOP ON! LET'S GO.
ANY EXCUSE TO GET ME TO HOLD YOU.
WHERE'S THOR?
YOU SEE RIGHT THROUGH ME.
DON'T KNOW EXACTLY.
I'M FOLLOWING THE LIGHTNING.

an audience is all that this is missing, Lord Thor.

someone who could chronicle this moment for all generations that follow.

a small pity.

hhaarrghh!

the fall of the house of Odin.

UH-OH.
THAT'S NOT THOR LIGHTNING.
HAAGH!
WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO WHEN WE GET THERE?!
HELP THOR!
I KNOW THAT! BUT WITH WHAT, AND HOW?
WE'LL FIGURE IT OUT WHEN WE GET THERE.
HOW DO YOU FIGURE THAT?
WE *HAVE* TO.
HO HO HO...
WHERE ARE WE NOW?
IS THIS *ASGARD?*
ASGARD IS ON EARTH.
NO.
I MEAN...IN THE PAST.
MAYBE WE TIME-TRAVELLED.
I HADN'T THOUGHT OF THAT.
THERE.
GO.

OH, NO...

THOR?! THOR!

HE'S OUT.

IS HE BREATHING?!

HE'S ALIVE, BUT HE'S HURT BAD.

AS BAD AS I HAVE EVER SEEN HIM HURT.

CAN YOU HELP HIM?

I'M A BILLIONAIRE INDUSTRIAL INVENTOR/SUPER HERO, NOT A DOCTOR.

AND THIS IS MAGIC STUFF. THIS ASGARDIAN WHAMMY.

THIS, I DON'T KNOW A DAMN THING ABOUT.

THOR?

CAN WE MOVE HIM?

I HONESTLY DON'T KNOW.

WE HAVE TO GET HIM OUT OF HERE.

WHATEVER DID THIS TO HIM COULD BE COMING BACK TO FINISH THE JOB OR RIGHT AROUND ANY OF THESE--

UH, MORE IMPORTANTLY.

WHERE'S MJOLNIR?

WHERE'S HIS HAMMER?

I THOUGHT-- I THOUGHT HE WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD LIFT IT.

IT HAS TO BE AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE.

YOU'RE RIGHT.

WE CAN'T STAY HERE.

I KNOW.

WHERE ARE WE EVEN TAKING HIM?

I THINK I KNOW A PLACE.

YOU KNOW A PLACE IN THIS PLACE THAT'S A PLACE WHERE WE DON'T KNOW WHERE WE ARE?

I DO.

WHAT ABOUT HIS HAMMER?

IT'S ENCHANTED, RIGHT? NO ONE CAN PICK IT UP BUT THOR.

WHAT IF SOMEONE ELSE *HAS* PICKED IT UP?

LET'S GO.

FATHER.

LORD!

RRRRR!

TAKE IT EASY, THOR.

I DIDN'T-- I DIDN'T EVEN BEGIN MY TREATMENTS. HE JUST HEALED.

HOW YOU DOING THERE, PAL?

WHERE ARE WE?

I WAS REALLY HOPING YOU COULD TELL US.

AT LEAST WE'RE ALL TOGETHER.

THIS IS TRUE. IT IS GOOD TO SEE YOU.

WE ARE IN THE WOODS OF JOTUNHEIM, LORD THOR.

THAT IS *A LIE, ELF WITCH!*

YOU TELL ME WHERE WE ARE IN ODIN'S REALM OR I *WILL HAVE YOUR--!*

WHOA, WHOA THERE!

THIS IS MAGETH. SHE'S A FRIEND. SHE GAVE US SHELTER.

MY--MY APOLOGIES, FAIR MAIDEN.

MY FORTUNES HAVE BEEN AFOUL LATELY.

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, THOR?

WHERE'S MJOLNIR?

SHE TOOK IT?

WHO WAS IT?

HELA.

OH, GODS.

THE GOD OF--?

THE GODDESS OF DEATH.

WONDERFUL.

AND SHE JUST FOUND YOU HERE, JUMPED YOU, AND TOOK YOUR HAMMER?

HOW WOULD SHE EVEN ***KNOW*** YOU WERE HERE?

WE CAME HERE BY COMPLETE ACCIDENT!

SHE WASN'T ALONE.

THE ENCHANTRESS WAS THERE.

TO WATCH ME FALL.

HOW CAN THAT BE, LORD THOR?

"AT FIRST I THOUGHT PERHAPS HELA WAS JUST A TRICK.

"AN APPARITION.

"A TRICK OF THE EYE BROUGHT TO LIFE BY THE ENCHANTRESS."

BUT HELA'S POWER WAS TOO GREAT. I FELL TO HER STEEL.

"THEN THE LAST THING MY EYES DID SEE WAS THE TWO ENGAGED IN STRUGGLE.

"THE ENCHANTRESS WANTS TO KILL ME, BUT SHE CLEARLY... THIS DAY SHE SAVED MY LIFE.

"WHAT DOES IT MEAN?"

WHAT *DOES* IT MEAN?

I FEAR WE ARE IN THE BOWELS OF HEL, MY FRIENDS.

I FEAR WE HAVE DIED.

AND THIS IS THE PUNISHMENT FOR ALL OUR SINS AND THE SINS OF OUR FATHERS.

AVENGERS PRIME 4

ENCHANTRESS, YOU CONFOUND ME.

WELL THEN, MY APOLOGIES, DEAREST HELA.

I HAD THE ODINSON. I HAD HIS DEATH IN MY HANDS.

AND WITH THE DEATH OF THOR WOULD COME THE FALL OF ALL THAT HAS VEXED YOUR LIFE FOR ALL TIME.

WHY WOULD *YOU*, OF ALL THOSE IN THE NINE REALMS, *STOP* ME FROM *HAVING* THIS?

WHY DID YOU PULL ME AWAY FROM DELIVERING THE FATE OF THE ODINSON?

AAARRGHH!

WHEN YOU KNEW IN YOUR HEART IT WAS ONLY TEMPORARILY?!

YOU *KNEW* MY PUNISHMENT WOULD BE GREAT.

YOU *KNEW* MY HAND WOULD BE FIERCE.

WHERE HAVE YOU SENT US, ENCHANTRESS?

WHERE IS THOR?!

WHERE IS HE?!

COME ON, THOR, DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE BEING A LITTLE DRAMATIC?

LOOK AROUND YOU, TONY STARK.

I JUST DON'T THINK WE'RE DEAD, IS ALL.

BE THAT AS IT MAY.

I DON'T FEEL DEAD. I FEEL PRETTY GOOD.

(COULD USE A COFFEE.)

ARE YOU SAYING WE *ALL* DIED IN ASGARD?

I AM SAYING, STEVEN, WE ARE *IN* THE LAND OF THE DEAD.

AND I AM SAYING: ISN'T IT CONVENIENT THAT ALL OF US ENDED UP IN THE SAME PLACE IN THE AFTERLIFE?

LORD THOR, MY DEEPEST RESPECTS, BUT I AM NEITHER DEAD NOR DOOMED.

THEN, LADY ELVIN, TELL ME WHERE IN THE NINE REALMS WE ARE.

I TOLD YOU, LORD THOR, THESE ARE THE--THE WOODS OF JOTUNHEIM.

SHE *KNOWS* WHERE SHE LIVES.

(I HOPE.)

I AM MY FATHER'S SON.

I KNOW EVERY ROCK AND TREE, EVERY CASTLE AND PILLAR OF ALL OF THE NINE REALMS.

FOR THAT IS MY BIRTHRIGHT.

AND SAY TO YOU THIS... WE ARE *NOT* IN JOTUNHEIM.

WE ARE IN NOTHING BUT A TWISTED VERSION OF THAT BEAUTIFUL REALM.

THEN YOU SAY WE HAVE BEEN CONDEMNED TO DAMNATION?

YOU SAY MY LIFE HERE IS A LIE?

HOLD ON, HOLD ON, LET'S REWIND...

YOU SAID THE ENCHANTRESS ATTACKED YOU...

YES.

THEN THIS HELA PERSON ATTACKED YOU...

YES.

THE ASGARDIAN GODDESS OF DEATH...

SHE WHO HOLDS THE NIGHTSWORD.

BUT THEN THE ENCHANTRESS SAVED YOU FROM HELA'S ATTACK...

I BELIEVE THIS IS TRUE. BUT IN THE PAST, THE NIGHTSWORD WAS NO MATCH FOR THE MIGHTY MJOLNIR.

WHY WOULD THE ENCHANTRESS ATTACK YOU *AND* SAVE YOU?

I DO NOT KNOW.

A WOMAN FLIP-FLOPPING ON A MAN?

I DON'T KNOW--THAT'S THE ONLY PART OF THE STORY THAT RINGS TRUE.

I DON'T APPRECIATE COMMENTS LIKE THAT. I NEVER HAVE.

I WAS JOKING.

YOU WERE *HALF* JOKING.

WELL, THAT'S TRUE.

BUT I *HAVE* HAD A ROUGH YEAR WITH THE LADIES.

IF I DON'T BELONG HERE, LORD THOR...

THEN YOU MUST HELP US.

YOU MUST PUT EVERYTHING RIGHT.

PUT EVERYTHING BACK THE WAY IT WAS.

THOR...IF THIS ISN'T THE WAY *THIS* WORLD IS SUPPOSED TO BE...

WHAT IF US TRAVELING HERE...IN THE WAY THAT WE DID...

THE ACCIDENT THAT BROUGHT US HERE...

WHAT IF *WE* ACCIDENTALLY CREATED THIS WORLD AROUND US?

COULD *THIS* BE OUR FAULT?

MJOLNIR.

NNN!

EVEN IN DEATH...ODIN CHALLENGES ME.

I WILL HAVE WHAT WAS YOURS!

SHOW ME A NEW TRUTH.

AS LONG AS THIS HAMMER EXISTS, ITS POWER WILL CHALLENGE MY RULE.

THIS CANNOT BE ALLOWED.

THIS-- THIS IS A TEST.

I AM THE GODDESS OF DEATH. I AM THE BRINGER OF ALL--

YES, YES...

THERE MAY BE ONE WHO LIVES IN MY VAST DOMAIN WHO MAY BREAK THE ENCHANTMENT THAT CONNECTS THOR TO THIS DAMNED WEAPON.

COME FORTH, GREAT ONE...

I HAVE A TASK ONLY FOR YOU.

I DO NOT LIE, GREAT WARRIOR.

AND THERE IS MY PROOF.

ALL THAT IS LEFT OF THE ODINSON.

YOU KNOW I SPEAK TRUTH FOR THIS HAMMER IS CONNECTED TO YOUR GRANDSON FOR ALL TIME.

THIS HAMMER THAT DESTROYED YOU AND SENT YOU TO MY REALM.

I OFFER IT TO YOU NOW.

BOR, FATHER TO ODIN, GRANDFATHER TO THOR, LOKI, AND BALDER...

THE HOUSE OF ASGARD HAS FALLEN...

YOUR GREAT BLOODLINE HAS COME TO AN END.

YOU LIE TO ME, HELL WOMAN.

SEND ME BACK *TO HEL!* I WOULD RATHER BURN THERE THAN BE A PUPPET IN YOUR--

RRUURR!

I TRUST YOU...NOT AT ALL.

BUT YOU LOSE NOTHING FOR IT, AND CHANCE TO GAIN EVERYTHING INSTEAD.

WE SHALL SEE.

YOU OFFER NOTHING WITHOUT COST.

MIGHTY BOR, I BRING YOU HERE AS AN ACT OF SELF-PRESERVATION.

NO ONE KNOWS WHAT WILL COME THIS DAWN.

WITHOUT YOUR BLOODLINE WATCHING OVER THE NINE REALMS, I FEAR THE UNKNOWN.

TAKE THE ENCHANTED WEAPON AND I WILL SET YOU FREE FROM YOUR ETERNAL DAMNATION.

TAKE YOUR KINGDOM AND LEAVE ME MINE.

KRA KOOM

HHUUAARRGGH!

THE ENCHANTMENT STAYS.

THOR IS AMONG THE LIVING.

YOU LIED AGAIN, DEATH DEALER.

THAT MY HAND BE TRUE AND I STRIKE YOU TO OBLIVION!

IN DEATH, AS IN LIFE, YOU FAIL.

BE GONE.

DAMN YOU, THOR.

WHY ARE YOU EVEN HERE?!

YOU SHOULD LET THIS BE A SYMBOL OF TRUTH, ONE MOST FOUL...

THIS IS NOT YOUR DAY!

ARE WE WORRIED THAT YOU DON'T HAVE YOUR HAMMER?

THE ENCHANTMENT SAYS NO ONE CAN LIFT IT BUT MYSELF.

BUT IT WAS TAKEN AWAY FROM YOU.

YES.

IT IS A DEEP CONCERN, BUT WE MUST HAVE FAITH.

ARE YOU PLANNING SOMETHING?

IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE DOING?

THERE IS MUCH TO CONTEMPLATE.

WE WAIT FOR DAYLIGHT. THEN WE WILL DISCOVER THE NEW TRUTH OF THIS COUNTRYSIDE.

ARE YOU PRAYING?

IN A WAY.

SHOULD WE ALL PRAY?

I CANNOT SEE HOW IT COULD HURT.

I MEANT TO SAY, THOR...

I AM SORRY ABOUT ASGARD.

AND I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR BROTHER.

I'M NOT SURE HOW I FEEL ABOUT LOKI'S DEMISE.

HE BROUGHT IT ON HIMSELF AS WE ALWAYS KNEW HE WOULD.

WELL THEN, I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR BROTHER IF *YOU'RE* SORRY ABOUT YOUR BROTHER.

BUT IF YOU'RE MAD AT HIM FOR CREATING THE SITUATION THAT PULLED DOWN ASGARD AND BROUGHT US HERE...THAN I AM TOO.

JUST SAYIN'.

YOU KNOW...

IF NOT FOR THE FACT THAT WE MAY BE *DEAD,* AND WE DON'T KNOW WHERE WE *ARE,* AND THE *GOBLINS* AND THE *DRAGONS* AND THE *ELVES...*

OR THE FACT THAT THERE'S NO *BATHROOM...*

THIS IS ACTUALLY KIND OF *NICE.*

I'VE NEVER BEEN ON A REAL VACATION.

I GUESS THIS IS AS CLOSE AS I'M LIKELY TO GET.

YOU WERE ASLEEP FROM WORLD WAR TWO UP UNTIL THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY.

WHAT DO *YOU* NEED A VACATION FOR?

THAT'S TRUE, TOO.

HEY, I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK YOU...

IS THIS GOING TO START ANOTHER FIGHT?

REMEMBER HELLCAT?

YES.

PATSY WALKER. SHE WAS AN AVENGER FOR TEN MINUTES.

I REMEMBER.

YOU GUYS EVER HOOK UP?

WHAT?

DID YOU TWO EVER--?
NO.
SHE SAID YOU DID.
WHAT?
YOU DIDN'T?
NO.
HUH.
THERE WAS A TIME...
THAT I MAY HAVE.
HOLD...YOU SAID *DRAGONS*. YOU SAID BEFORE, YOU SAID YOU SAW A *DRAGON*?
YEAH.
YOU *CONFRONTED* THIS DRAGON?
YEAH.
DID HE MENTION HIS *NAME*?
HE *DID*, ACTUALLY.
HE DID INDEED.

AND THE NAME I GAVE WAS *FAFNIR.*

DO HONOR ME, THOR...BY REMEMBERING ME.

I DO REMEMBER YOU.

I REMEMBER I PROVE AN ENCHANTED SPEAR THROUGH YOUR DAEMON'S HEART.

WHERE IS YOUR *HAMMER,* THOR?

DID YOU *LOSE* IT?

STAY THY TONGUE.

DID YOU LOSE IT LIKE YOUR FATHER LOST HIS ALL-SEEING *EYE?*

YOU WILL SWALLOW YOUR EVIL WORDS AND YOU WILL HEED MY--

OR WHAT? YOU WILL *KILL* ME?!

YOU ALREADY DID THAT.

YOU WILL TELL ME WHAT YOU *KNOW* OF THIS TWISTED REALM!

YOU WILL TELL ME HOW YOU GOT HERE AND HOW LONG YOU HAVE BEEN HERE--

THWEAR

NO RESPECT.

SLASH

MADNESS AND SORCERY!

I TOLD YOU!

AND WE HAVE NUMBERS!

RIP THE PINK ONE IN HALF!

ARE YOU OKAY?

STAY THINE HAND.

STAY WHOSE HAND?

WE DO NOT FIGHT.

WE DON'T?

BECAUSE I REALLY THINK THEY WANT TO.

WE SHOULD RUN!

I TOLD YOU.

YOU WILL *STOP* THIS FIGHT AND YOU WILL STOP YOUR MADNESS!

BOTH YOU AND I ARE STUCK HERE JUST THE SAME!

DO YOU WISH TO *WALLOW* IN THIS MESS OR DO YOU WISH TO RISE UP AND FIGHT YOUR WAY TO TRUE ETERNAL REST?

DO YOU WISH TO SPEND YOUR *ETERNITY* ACTING WITH THE SAME *FOOLISHNESS* THAT COST YOU YOUR LIFE TO BEGIN WITH?

OR DO YOU WISH TO *HELP ME* END THIS MADNESS?!

WE NEED YOUR STRENGTH IN NUMBERS, FAFNIR.

IF WE ARE TO FIX WHAT IS WRONG.

I WOULD *NEVER* ALIGN WITH YOU!

THEN BE GONE, DRAGON.

ENJOY YOUR TORTUROUS AFTERLIFE.

WHEN DAY BREAKS, MY FRIENDS AND I WILL SEEK OUT THE LADY DEATH TO UNDO WHATEVER WE MUST TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT.

FOR THAT, I WILL NEED AN ARMY.

I WILL NEED YOU TO GATHER AND JOIN ME IN BATTLE...

ALL OF US.

FOR NO ONE OF US COULD DO THIS ALONE.

YOU FOUGHT WELL, AMORA.

THERE'S NO DISHONOR IN THAT.

BUT IF YOU WOULD HAVE STOPPED AND GIVEN THOUGHT TO HOW THINGS HAVE COME TO PASS...

HOW WE'VE COME TO THIS...

YOU WOULD HAVE KNOWN THIS FIGHT WAS FOR NAUGHT.

THERE WAS THE WAY THINGS WERE, AND NOW THERE IS...THE WAY THINGS ARE.

WITHOUT ASGARD WHERE IT BELONGS, THE NINE REALMS HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FALL INTO CHAOS.

AND THAT MEANS TRUTHS NOW MUST BE REINVENTED.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

WH-WHERE DID YOU GET SUCH POWER?

HOW ARE YOU...DOING ALL OF THIS?

A DYING WISH.

BECAUSE WITHOUT ASGARD TO PROTECT OUR HISTORY, OUR RELICS OF POWER HAVE DISPERSED TO ALL THE CORNERS OF ALL THE REALMS.

THE TWILIGHT SWORD.

AND ALL THAT ENTAILS.

AND THESE ITEMS FIND NEW OWNERS TO WORSHIP THEM.

AND IN RETURN, THESE AMAZING RELICS GIVE POWER AS THEIR REWARD.

CHAK

now you see.

Arthur Adams & Morry Hollowell

AVENGERS PRIME 5

THOR, IF THEY MADE A GREETING CARD THAT SAID: CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ON YOUR ARMY GATHERING SKILLS...

I WOULD BUY YOU ONE.

I CAN HARDLY TAKE CREDIT.

THESE SOLDIERS CAME OF THEIR OWN FREE WILL.

THEY KNOW THIS WORLD IS WRONG.

THEY WANT THEIR LIFE BACK AND THEY'RE READY TO FIGHT.

NOW ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS FIND THIS HELA AND YOUR HAMMER AND WHAT?

DEFEAT THE GODDESS OF DEATH AND HER UNLIMITED GODLIKE POWERS, CHANGE EVERYTHING BACK TO THE WAY IT WAS BEFORE SHE TOOK OVER, FIND A WAY BACK TO EARTH AND HOPE PEOPLE MISSED US WHILE WE WERE GONE?

WE DON'T HAVE TO FIND HER.

BECAUSE--

A GATHERING LIKE THIS...SHE'LL COME TO US.

HOME-COURT ADVANTAGE.

NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT.

CAPTAIN ROGERS, DO YOU HAVE A MOMENT?

LADY MAGETH...

I WANTED TO THANK YOU.

FOR WHAT?

FOR FIGHTING FOR US.

WE ALL ARE. EVERYONE.

BUT YOU'RE A STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND.

'TIS INSPIRING.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING ME IN.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING IN MY FRIENDS.

I--WE NEEDED A FRIENDLY FACE. THANK YOU.

I SUPPOSE ONCE THE BATTLE CALL IS GIVEN, WE WILL NEVER SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN.

IF THE BATTLE GOES WELL, YOU GET TO GO HOME.

IF THE BATTLE GOES POORLY...

EITHER WAY, I'M VERY GLAD WE MET.

WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN?
I DO NOT KNOW.
ISN'T HE SEEING SOMEONE BACK ON EARTH?
I DO NOT--
NOT WHAT?
IT'S TIME.
IS THIS IT?
VERY MUCH SO.
FATHER...
BRING ME STRENGTH AND WISDOM TO SEE THIS THROUGH.

YOUR FATHER IS DEAD, ODINSON.

BECAUSE, LIKE YOU, HE DIDN'T KNOW WHEN A FIGHT WOULD BEAR NO FRUIT.

SHE DIDN'T BRING THOR'S HAMMER.

I DON'T SEE IT.

THAT'S WHAT I'M SAYING.

YOUR MADNESS ENDS NOW, DEATH DEALER!

THIS WORLD ISN'T MY DOING!

YOU HAVE ONLY YOURSELF TO THANK.

WELCOME TO YOUR KINGDOM, ODINSON!

IF THE HOUSE OF ODIN WAS STILL HERE TO RULE THE NINE REALMS, HOW WOULD SOMEONE BE ABLE TO TAKE IT SO EASILY?

DID YOU SEE THAT?

THAT'S NOT GOOD.

I WAS JUST THINKING THAT.

KEEP FIGHTING.

WHAT TREACHERY HAVE YOU BROUGHT ME NOW?

IT'S TIME TO PAY FOR ALL YOUR SINS.

AND THE SINS OF YOUR FATHER.

AND YOUR BASTARD BROTHER.

YOU KNEW THIS TIME WOULD COME.

FIGHT ALL YOU WANT.

IT ONLY MAKES IT MORE PLEASURABLE FOR ME.

YELL IF THOR COMES BACK.

I'M PROBABLY GOING TO YELL EITHER WAY.

THUD

I KNOW NOT WHERE YOU HAVE FOUND THE POWER TO DO THIS, DEVIL'S MISTRESS...

ARGH!

BUT IT MATTERS NOT.

SLASH

I ONLY WISH THAT YOU HAD IT WITHIN YOU TO BEG FOR YOUR LIFE AND FOR THAT OF YOUR FATHER'S KINGDOM.

BUT I KNOW THAT IS NOT--

WHO DARES?!

YOU WILL NOT!

SKEKYAKKK

NOOO!

YOU WILL NOT!

WE HAVE NO TIME, ODINSON.

TAKE YOUR HAMMER.

WHY WOULD YOU HELP ME, ENCHANTRESS?

WHEN LAST WE MET, I CHOSE POORLY.

I WAS GREEDY AND SELFISH...I STOOD IN YOUR WAY AND I GAVE THAT HELLBEAST THE CHANCE TO BRING YOU DOWN.

OUR PROBLEMS--MY PROBLEMS WITH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH WHAT IS GOING ON HERE.

WHAT SHE HAS DONE... CANNOT BE ALLOWED.

SHE HAS THE TWILIGHT SWORD, THOR.

THAT'S HOW SHE CREATED THIS NIGHTMARE WORLD.

THAT'S HOW SHE KEPT YOUR HAMMER FROM YOU.

SHE'S GOING TO RIP THE NINE REALMS APART.

YOU HAVE TO STOP HER.

I'LL HELP YOU, THOR. I WILL SEE THIS TO THE END.

DON'T BE TERRIBLY FLATTERED...

BETWEEN DEATH AND YOU, I CHOOSE YOU.

HURRY.

SHE'S COMING.

SURRENDER.

HEADS UP.

WELL, ALL RIGHT THEN.

WHY?

KRAKOOM

CAN YOU FLY?
A LITTLE.
HELP HIM! GO!
IN THIS COBBLED ARMOR, I'LL NEVER MAKE IT IN TIME!
WE HAVE TO HELP HIM!
I HAVE A BETTER IDEA.
DRAGON BOY! GO!
GO THERE!
WHEN WE GET THERE, WHOEVER THOR'S FIGHTING... BURN THEM!
I'm not a DOG.
ISA BOOLEANAT BECOMINLA PFIZERMIGA.

NYYAAGGHH!

43

EM

AND WITH THAT YOU LEARN THAT YOU HAVE NOTHING THAT WILL WIN THIS DAY.

YOU WERE BROUGHT HERE TO TEST ME AND I HAVE PASSED THE TEST.

FLASH

YOU BOAST-- BUT THE BATTLE IS OVER WHEN ONLY ONE IS LEFT STANDING.

I AGREE.

KKKK

THOR, BUDDY, DO WHATEVER YOU HAVE TO DO TO WRAP THIS UP AND LET'S GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE!

THE TWILIGHT SWORD WILL LISTEN TO YOUR WISHES, PRINCE OF ASGARD.

IT WILL CARVE THE NINE REALMS IN YOUR IMAGE.

DO IT, THOR.

PUT IT ALL BACK.

PUT ASGARD BACK IN THE SKY.

AND PUT THIS DEMON BACK IN HELL!

my time!

WHAT DID YOU DO?

THOR, WHAT DID YOU DO?

THE NINE REALMS ARE BACK TO WHERE THEY WERE BEFORE.

BEFORE?

BEFORE SHE TOUCHED THE SWORD. ALL IS AS IT WAS

BUT ASGARD--

STAYS ON EARTH.

WHY?

TO USE THIS UNHOLY POWER FOR MY OWN ENDS WOULD MAKE ME THE SAME DEMON SHE IS.

I WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND YOU.

HOPEFULLY THAT IS NOT TRUE.

BUT YOUR ALLEGIANCE THIS DAY WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN.

IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT NOW?

WE SHALL SEE.

WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

NOW WE GO TO THE ELDERS OF VANAHEIM AND HOPE THEY CAN HELP US GET BACK TO MIDGARD.

I CAN SEND YOU BACK.

FOR WHAT PRICE?

I'LL... TAKE THE SWORD.

I AM ITS KEEPER NOW.

I KNOW THAT.

I WILL SEND YOU HOME TO END THIS TERRIBLE DAY.

I'VE BEEN TRAVELING BACK AND FORTH TO EARTH SINCE BEFORE YOU EVEN KNEW WHAT IT WAS.

ENCHANTRESS, ANY BASE TRICKERY WILL ONLY--

YOU'RE THE ONE WITH THE SWORD OF UNHOLY POWER.

YOU NEED NOT THREATEN ME.

RUINS OF ASGARD, HEIMDALL'S OBSERVATORY. EARTH.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO, HEIMDALL?

MY OBSERVATORY IS BROKEN.

THE BIFROST RAINBOW BRIDGE IS BROKEN.

BUT--

NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU YELL, IT WILL STILL BE BROKEN.

WE REALLY SHOULDN'T BE HERE.

AND I WILL STILL NOT KNOW WHERE LORD THOR AND HIS COMPATRIOTS HAVE GONE.

IT'S BEEN TWO DAYS, MAN!

OUR FRUSTRATION IS THE SAME. LET ME TRY TO PUT THIS TOGETHER--

UH-OH--

NO, HOLD ON...

OH, THANK GOD!

YOU SCARED THE *HELL OUT OF US!*

BUT I'M LIKING THE NEW LOOKS!

YOU GUYS LOOK LIKE YOU WENT TO DUNGEONS & DRAGONS CAMP.

WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TO YOU GUYS?

MIGHTY HEIMDALL, I NEED YOU TO GUARD THIS WITH ALL THAT YOU HAVE.

THE TWILIGHT SWORD.

FOUND ITS WAY INTO THE HANDS OF HELA.

AND YOU *LIVED* TO TELL THE TALE?

WILL YOU GUARD THIS?

WILL YOU HIDE IT AWAY FOR ALL TIME?

FOR ALL TIME.

HEY, DON'T TELL THOR BECAUSE HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S GOING TO FALL OVER...

BUT THAT'S AS MUCH FUN AS I'VE HAD SINCE I ACTUALLY ***WENT*** TO DUNGEONS & DRAGONS SUMMER CAMP.

YOU WERE AMAZING UP THERE.

I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT ELF LADY.

I'M SORRY ABOUT THE THINGS I SAID BEFORE THIS HAPPENED.

IT'S--IT'S JUST SO HARD TO PUT AWAY ALL THE THINGS THAT HAPPENED BETWEEN US.

ALL THOSE THINGS...

ALL THE THINGS I SAID AND DID-- I'M--I'M SO, SO SORRY.

I KNOW THAT'S NOT ENOUGH, BUT I HOPE YOU WILL ALLOW ME THE CHANCE TO EARN YOUR FRIENDSHIP BACK.

I DON'T DESERVE IT...I JUST HOPE YOU LET ME.

I'M NOT HALF AS GOOD AT--AT ANYTHING AS I AM WHEN I'M DOING IT NEXT TO YOU.

AND THAT'S THE TRUTH.

THE END.

John Romita Sr. & Franks D'Armata

JRJR
+
JANSON
+
WHITE

DO YOU KNOW *WHO I AM?!!*

DO YOU KNOW WHAT *YOU'VE DONE??!!*

I AM *IMMORTUS, MASTER OF TIME!!*

I WAS THERE AT YOUR BIRTH. I WAS THERE AT EVERY SINGLE MOMENT OF YOUR MISERABLE LIVES!!

AND FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE HERE TODAY...I'LL BE THERE TO WATCH *YOU DIE!!*

EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU!!

I WILL *WATCH YOU DIE!!*

KRAKOOM

YOU HAVE NO IDEA THE--

THAT GUY LIKED TO TALK.

REALLY?

WASN'T EVEN LISTENING...

CAPTAIN STEVE ROGERS.
TOP COP OF THE WORLD.

OUR PRESIDENT ASKED ME WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW...

I TOLD HIM THE WORLD NEEDS WHAT IT ALWAYS NEEDS.

HEROES.

NOT S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENTS... NOT H.A.M.M.E.R. AGENTS.

AVENGERS.

NOW, MAYBE, MORE THAN EVER.

BUT WHAT DOES THAT MEAN IN THIS NEW WORLD? ONE BIG TEAM OF HEROES? A HANDFUL OF TEAMS?

THAT WAS THE QUESTION...

WHAT INGREDIENTS WOULD INSPIRE THIS COUNTRY... THE WORLD. AND I THINK I KNOW...

AND FOR THIS I HAVE PICKED YOU.

WELL, ALL RIGHT.
WHERE DO YOU WANT ME?
HUH.
REALLY?
UH, COOL.
YEAH, ALL RIGHT.
POINT ME.
WHEREVER YOU NEED ME, FRIEND.
...
HUH.
THEN WHAT WAS THE @#$@$% POINT?
DON'T MIND HIM.
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME.
PLEASE DON'T SAY WEST COAST. PLEASE DON'T SAY WEST COAST. PLEASE DON'T SAY WEST COAST.
THEN THIS IS THE PATH CHOSEN FOR ME.
O.M.G.
YOU MEAN ME, TOO?
YES, SIR.
UH, I MAY HAVE TO ASK MY MOM.
AT YOUR COMMAND.
UM, UH, OKAY.
HELL YES!
THANK YOU.
OH, MY STARS AND GARTERS!
ARE YOU COMPLETELY OUT OF YOUR MIND?

SOLDIER FIELD, CHICAGO.

SIMON, YOU'RE WONDER MAN, YOU'RE AN AVENGER.

ONE OF THE *GREATEST* AVENGERS OF ALL TIME.

AND I AM TELLING YOU: PUTTING THE AVENGERS BACK TOGETHER IS A TERRIBLE IDEA.

HOW CAN YOU *SAY* THAT?

BECAUSE--HEY, MAYBE IT'S ONE OF THOSE THINGS THAT YOU CAN'T SEE WHEN YOU'RE RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF IT, BUT ONCE YOU STEP BACK IT COULDN'T BE MORE CLEAR.

FROM MY POINT OF VIEW...THE SUPER HERO CIVIL WAR, THE MUTANT DECIMATION, THE SKRULL INVASION, NORMAN OSBORN, THEY HAVE--THEY ALL HAVE ONE THING IN COMMON...

THEY ARE ALL THE AVENGERS' FAULT.

OH, SIMON, HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?

STEVE, HOW CAN YOU NOT?

THE AVENGERS STOPPED--

THOSE WERE THREATS THAT THE AVENGERS PUT A STOP TO.

THE CIVIL WAR-- FINE. THAT WAS A DIFFERENT STORY, BUT ALL THE OTHERS, SIMON, WE STOPPED THEM.

I KNEW WHEN YOU PARDONED ME FROM JAIL THERE WAS SOME CATCH. I KNEW IT.

I KNOW YOU CAN'T SEE IT YET, STEVE, BUT I HOPE TO GOD YOU FIGURE IT OUT BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

FREE YOURSELF FROM THIS.

DON'T BE PART OF THE PROBLEM.

I HOPE YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND, SIMON.

AND IF YOU DO, I HOPE YOU COME FIND ME.

I HOPE YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND TOO.

BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T...

I'LL CHANGE IT FOR YOU.

AVENGERS TOWER, NEW YORK CITY.

ALL RIGHT, AVENGERS...

YOU...YOU WILL BE THE FACE OF A NEW ERA.

AND I WILL TELL YOU WHY I PICKED YOU...

THOR

SPIDER-MAN

IRON MAN

CAPTAIN AMERICA

SPIDER-WOMAN

WOLVERINE

HAWKEYE

FOR YOUR NOBILITY AND STRENGTH.

YOUR CUNNING AND BRAVERY.

POWER AND RESPONSIBILITY.

REALLY?

RUTHLESSNESS AND SELFLESSNESS.

IF YOU SAY SO.

SYMBOLISM.

SAVVY.

AND A CLEAR VIEW OF THE FUTURE.

UM, CAN I TALK TO YOU FOR A SECOND?

STEVE, I DON'T HAVE TO BE ON YOUR LITTLE TEAM HERE.
OF COURSE YOU DON'T *HAVE* TO. BUT IT'S THE AVENGERS. I THOUGHT YOU'D *WANT* TO.
I'M TALKING ABOUT ME AND YOU.
I KNOW.
WE DON'T AGREE ON...JUST ABOUT *ANYTHING* ANYMORE.
THAT'S NOT *ENTIRELY* TRUE.
SEE, WE DON'T EVEN AGREE ABOUT *THAT.*
SO, UH, YOU'RE BACK TO BEING HAWKEYE.
YES, I AM.
JUST LIKE THAT?
WE'RE BACK TO BEING *AVENGERS* FOR REAL. I'M BACK TO BEING HAWKEYE FOR REAL.
YESTERDAY YOU WERE RONIN, TODAY YOU'RE HAWKEYE.
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO MAKE A PROCLAMATION?
I THINK I WOULD.
TODAY... I AM HAWKEYE.
THANK YOU.
WHEN I LOOK AT YOU, ALL I SEE ARE ALL THE *MISTAKES* AND ALL THE--
TONY--
I'M NOT SAYING IT'S GOING TO BE THAT WAY *FOREVER...*
YOU OKAY?
I'M NOT SURE I BELONG HERE, LOGAN.
YES.
DID CAPTAIN AMERICA HIMSELF ASK YOU, THE AMAZING SPIDER-WOMAN, TO BE AN AVENGER?
WELL THEN...
I DON'T THINK I'VE EARNED IT.
YEAH?
I'VE BEEN DOWN THIS ROAD MYSELF.
YOU KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO?
WHAT?
EARN IT.

I CAN *DO* SOMETHING ELSE.

WE'LL KILL EACH OTHER.

I WANT YOU ON THIS TEAM. IT'S YOUR HOUSE.

NO. WE'LL BE FINE.

I'M NOT RUNNING THE TEAM.

YOU'RE NOT?

I HAVE AN ENTIRE COUNTRY TO WORRY ABOUT.

HEY...

I'M SORRY.

NO...I WAS JUST SAYING...

HEY...

I'M SORRY, I'M NOT ENTIRELY SURE WHO YOU ARE.

WHO *IS* GOING TO RUN THE TEAM?

BEST PERSON FOR THE JOB.

ME?

NO...

HA. NO.

HER.

MARIA HILL, REPORTING FOR DUTY.

BOYS.

SPIDER-LADY...

I'M VERY OKAY WITH THAT.

ANSWER TO HER AS YOU WOULD ME...

THIS TEAM, YOUR TEAM, THIS-- THIS SAYS TO THE WORLD: WE HAVE IT COVERED.

SOMETHING FOR EVERY POSSIBLE SCENARIO.

AND AS FAR AS YOU AND ME...

LET'S JUST TRY NOT TO KILL EACH OTHER.

IS THIS EVERYBODY?

CLANG

NO.

WHO'S MISSING?

I THOUGHT HE'D SHOW.

HE WHO?

UH, GUYS...

MIGHTY AVENGERS...

I AM KANG!

THE CONQUEROR.

LISTEN CAREFULLY, YOU WHO THINK OF YOURSELVES AS HEROES.

I HAVE TRAVELLED THROUGH THE GREAT REACHES OF TIME TO BRING YOU A WARNING--

HOLY--!
WHOA!!
COOL..
THAT WOULD BE WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE ON THE AVENGERS WITH THOR.
SCRASH
SMASH
CRAASH

FOUL ONE, YOU HAVE CHOSEN A POOR COURSE OF ACTION THIS DAY.

YEAH, I GOTTA TELL YA, KANG...

YOU SHOULD GO BACK TO THE FUTURE AND LOOK UP ONLINE JUST EXACTLY HOW BADLY YOU TIMED **THIS** BIT OF BUSINESS, BECAUSE--

I KNOW ***EXACTLY*** WHAT TIME IT IS.

OH MY GOD. OKAY.

EVERYONE BACK.

BACK DOWN. BACK DOWN!!

WHAT? HE WANTS US TO COOK HIM AN EGG?

IT COULD BE SILLY PUTTY.

EVIL SILLY PUTTY... FROM THE FUTURE.

THIS ISN'T A JOKE.

WHERE DID YOU GET THAT??

WHERE DID YOU GET IT??!!

THERE IS NOT A WEAPON IN ALL OF TIME THAT I CANNOT GET MY HANDS ON.

YOU KNOW THAT.

IT'S PART OF MY CHARM.

BUT I HAVEN'T EVEN BUILT THAT YET.

I WON'T.

BUT YOU WILL.

YOU DID.

WHAT IS IT?

IT'S--IT DOESN'T MATTER. HE HAS THE UPPER HAND.

TELL THEM WHAT IT IS OR I WILL.

IT'S A DOOMSDAY DEVICE.

YOU INVENTED A DEVICE WHOSE ONLY PURPOSE IS DOOM?

WAS LIFE NOT CHALLENGING ENOUGH FOR YOU AS IS?

AND HOW DOES THE TWITCHY THREATENING GUY HAVE IT?

IT'S A DARK MATTER ACCELERATOR. IF HE WANTS IT TO... IT'LL TURN ALL OF US INSIDE OUT.

THE ENTIRE CITY.

WHY WOULD YOU INVENT THAT?

I DIDN'T.

I THOUGHT OF IT AND I WROTE IT DOWN.

I HAVEN'T BUILT IT.

IN FACT, I PROMISED MYSELF I NEVER WOULD.

AND YET?

LISTEN TO ME! HE HAS THE UPPER HAND.

WHAT DO YOU WANT, KANG?

WHO IS HE?

HE'S A THIEF AND A MURDERER.

I'VE NEVER HEARD OF HIM.

IT'S BEFORE YOUR TIME AS CAPTAIN AMERICA, BUCKY.

HE'S FROM THE FUTURE. HE'S A TIME TRAVELER.

A TIME WARRIOR.

A TIME TERRORIST.

THAT'S AN EXAMPLE OF YOUR LIMITED PERCEPTION OF THE UNIVERSE.

THE AVENGERS HAVE HAD TO DEAL WITH HIM ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS.

WHAT DO YOU WANT?!

I'M HERE BECAUSE I HAVE WORDS FROM THE FUTURE THAT YOU NEED TO HEAR.

DO I EVER FIND TRUE LOVE?

IT'S ABOUT YOUR *CHILDREN.*

REALITY IS COMING TO AN END AND IT'S MOSTLY THEIR FAULT.

OH, DO I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION?

THIS IS THE WORLD YOUR CHILDREN LIVE IN.

A WORLD COMPLETELY RUINED AND REINVENTED BY ULTRON.

YOU REMEMBER ULTRON, DON'T YOU?

AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE STRONGER AND MORE ENDURING THAN YOU. OR ME.

AND AS YOU SECRETLY KNEW HE ONE DAY WOULD...ULTRON CAME BACK AND FINALLY DESTROYED YOU AND THE WORLD.

YOUR CHILDREN GREW UP IN THE RUINS OF THE WORLD YOU WERE COMPLETELY UNABLE TO PROTECT.

BUT YOUR CHILDREN, IT SEEMS, WITHOUT ***YOU*** TO GUIDE THEM, DESTROYED ULTRON AND TOOK OVER HIS EMPIRE.

AND THEY HAVE DONE SO WITH A RUTHLESSNESS THAT ALEXANDER THE GREAT WOULD WINCE AT.

THEY ARE YOUNG, THEY ARE POWERFUL AND THEY ARE ON A COLLISION COURSE TO DESTROY THE UNIVERSE BECAUSE THEY ARE WIELDING POWER THEY DO NOT KNOW HOW TO CONTROL.

YOU NEED TO GO TO THE FUTURE AND STOP THEM BEFORE THEY DO.

YOU NEED TO GO THERE AND RIGHT THIS WRONG.

WHAT WAS THE MIDDLE PART AGAIN?

OUR CHILDREN?

YES. CONGRATULATIONS.

HOW *PROUD* YOU MUST BE.

UM, LET'S SAY YOU'RE TELLING THE TRUTH...

AND THAT NONE OF US HAVE ANY PROBLEM CORRUPTING THE SPACE/TIME CONTINUUM OR WHATEVER SMARTER PEOPLE CALL IT...

WHY CAN'T WE, OR YOU, JUST GO AND STOP ULTRON BEFORE HIS BIG TAKEOVER?

BECAUSE WE CAN'T.

YOU OR I, WE DON'T HAVE THE CAPACITY TO DO SO.

YOU KNOW THIS BECAUSE...

BECAUSE I HAVE TRIED AND I HAVE FAILED.

TWENTY TIMES.

WITH ALLIES OF ALL KINDS. WITH WEAPONS FROM ALL TIMES.

ONLY YOUR CHILDREN WERE ABLE TO.

WHOSE KIDS ARE WE TALKING ABOUT, *EXACTLY?*

ARE WE BELIEVING HIM?

I WANT TO KNOW.

AS DO I.

WHAT DIFFERENCE COULD THAT POSSIBLY MAKE TO ME? I'VE TOLD YOU ENOUGH.

COMING TO YOU LIKE THIS *SICKENS* ME.

BUT MY LIFELINE WILL END BECAUSE OF THIS, AND I CANNOT HAVE THAT.

SO FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, OUR NEEDS ARE ONE.

I DO NOT WANT TO DIE AT THE HANDS OF YOUR BASTARD OFFSPRING AND YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR CHILDREN TO GROW UP MURDERERS WORSE THAN ANY YOU'VE EVER OPPOSED.

I WOULD OFFER YOU SAFE VOYAGE AND THE TECHNOLOGY TO DO WHAT YOU MUST DO, BUT YOU WILL NOT TAKE IT FROM ME.

YOU WILL NEED TO DISCOVER ON YOUR OWN THAT THIS IS NEITHER A TRAP NOR A LIE.

YOU'LL SEE.

YOU WILL GO FORTH AND YOU WILL STOP THE MADNESS ONCE AND FOR ALL.

AND IF YOU DO SO, I PROMISE YOU THIS...

I WILL NEVER AGAIN ATTEMPT TO CAUSE YOU PAIN OR SUFFERING.

I WILL END MY BLOOD FEUD WITH THE AVENGERS AND EVEN DEVOTE MYSELF TO YOUR WELL-BEING.

BUT KNOW THIS: I WILL NOT LET MY DESTINY FALL INTO YOUR HANDS OR THE HANDS OF YOUR CHILDREN.

I WILL NOT DO IT.

THE NEXT TIME WE MEET I ACTIVATE THIS DEVICE. I WILL HAVE NOTHING LEFT TO LOSE.

I DON'T **HAVE** A TIME MACHINE.

I DON'T KNOW **HOW** TO **SEE** INTO THE FUTURE.

YOU WILL WHEN YOUR TEAM IS COMPLETE.

OUR CHILDREN.

WOW. I HATE *THAT* GUY.

YES.

SO NOW WE NEED A TIME MACHINE?

YEAH, DO YOU HAVE ONE?

YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE ONE.

NO.

BUT YOU'RE TONY STARK.

IF I HAD A TIME MACHINE, I'D GO BACK IN TIME AND STOP ASGARD FROM FALLING...

OR CAP FROM GETTING SHOT...

OR SAVE MY FRIENDS JANET AND WANDA.

I'D GO TALK TO MY FATHER AND ASK **HIM** WHAT TO DO.

AND THEN I'D BE NO BETTER THAN KANG HIMSELF.

RIGHT. AND WE SHOULDN'T ***DISRUPT*** THE FUTURE.

WE SHOULDN'T EVEN ***KNOW*** OUR OWN FUTURES.

HE SHOULDN'T HAVE TOLD US WE END UP HAVING KIDS.

MAYBE.

MAYBE?

PEOPLE HAVE BEEN PROGRAMMED TO THINK OF TIME AS A LINEAR CONSTRUCT.

IT'S PROBABLY NOT.

THERE'S MORE EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE IDEA THAT TIME AND SPACE ARE ACTUAL ORGANISMS.

THEY ARE PHYSICAL THINGS. THAT'S PROBABLY WHY SOMEONE LIKE KANG CAN TRAVEL THROUGH THEM.

TIME IS A THING.

WHAT DOES ***THAT*** MEAN?

IT MEANS IT'S ALL HAPPENING NOW.

THE PAST IS HAPPENING NOW, THE FUTURE IS HAPPENING NOW.

IT'S ALL HAPPENING NOW.

OKAY.

BUT HOW MUCH OF IT CAN WE POSSIBLY BE EXPECTED TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR?

EXACTLY. WHY ARE WE EVEN ***WORRYING*** ABOUT THIS?

IF--IF IT'S TRUE, IT'S THE FUTURE. IT'S NOT NOW.

WE HAVE ENOUGH TO WORRY ABOUT NOW. HERE.

THIS IS TOMORROW'S PROBLEM.

NO.

THE WORLD WILL END.

CHILDREN-- *OUR* CHILDREN-- MAY NEED US.

WE CAN'T IGNORE IT. EVEN IF THERE'S ONLY A CHANCE.

WHAT WOULD YOU NEED TO BUILD ONE?

I'D NEED VICTOR VON DOOM.

BUT SEEING AS HE CANNOT BE TRUSTED, I NEED SOMEONE TO-- I NEED--

REED RICHARDS.

ALREADY CALLED, AND HE AIN'T HOME.

I'D NEED ADVANCED KNOWLEDGE OF NOT ONLY TIME BUT INTERDIMENSIONAL TRAVEL THAT WOULD NOT DAMAGE THE CONSTRUCT OF THIS REALITY OR--

MARIA. HIT THE LIST. SEE WHO WE'VE GOT.

SURE.

THAT SHOULDN'T BE TOO HARD.

CHECK THE OSBORN FILES TOO.

I KNOW EXACTLY WHO WE NEED.

HOW DID IT GO, KANG?

THEY'RE GOING TO COME HERE.

YOU BETTER HOPE SO.

I UNDERSTAND THE STAKES.

GOOD.

THOSE AVENGERS ARE GOING TO LEARN, HULK IS THE SMARTEST ONE THERE IS.

SAY IT!

Alive Abstract

AVENGERS 2

"HIS NAME IS NOH-VARR."

"MARVEL BOY."

"THAT'S MARVEL BOY?

"I KNOW THAT KID. THAT'S A NEW LOOK."

"GUESS SO."

"WASN'T HE ONE OF OSBORN'S AVENGERS?"

"HE WAS THE ONE THAT KNEW TO RUN AWAY FROM ALL THAT.

CRASH

ATLANTA NAVAL AIR STATION, MARIETTA, GEORGIA.

"THAT'S GOT TO COUNT FOR SOMETHING.

"KID'S AN ALIEN, KREE.

"FROM WHAT I KNOW-- HE'S GOT ALL THE ALIEN TECH AND KNOW-HOW WE'D EVER NEED.

"THAT'S HOW HE GOT TO EARTH IN THE FIRST PLACE."

"HE'S A KREE."

"DON'T KNOW WHO THE TIN CAN IS."

"THAT'S TITANIUM MAN. HE'S ONE OF MY BAD GUYS."

"SO ON A SCALE OF ONE TO TEN, HOW IMPRESSIVE IS THAT TAKEDOWN?"

CRASH-KK

"VERY."

HEY KID!

WE NEED YOUR ALIEN BRAIN.

'CAUSE THE WORLD'S COMING TO AN END OR SOMETHING.

WHAT CAN I DO?

YOU'RE MARVEL BOY??

BUT YOU'RE ON THE GOOD GUYS' SIDE NOW?

I DON'T THINK I WANT TO BE CALLED THAT ANYMORE.

NO MORE ALIEN TERRORIST TANTRUMS THREATENING TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD?

NO MORE JOINING OSBORN'S TEAM OF HOMICIDAL MANIACS?

NO.

I TOLD YA.

I WANT TO HEAR IT FROM HIM.

ADJUSTING TO LIFE ON EARTH...

...TOOK SOME GETTING USED TO.

I KNOW MY PLACE NOW.

AT LEAST I KNOW WHAT IT *SHOULD* BE, AND I'M TRYING TO GET THERE.

I KNOW WHY I'M HERE.

WHY ARE YOU HERE?

TO PROTECT THIS WORLD.

I'M THE *PROTECTOR.*

GOOD FOR YOU.

LISTEN...

WE NEED SOMEONE WHO KNOWS ABOUT TIME-SPACE DIMENSIONAL TRAVEL EQUATIONS.

THAT'S-- THAT'S *ALL* I KNOW.

GOOD.

WE NEED YOU TO BUILD US A TIME MACHINE, SEND US INTO THE FUTURE, AND HELP STOP THE WORLD FROM COMING TO AN END.

IS THIS YOUR SARCASM?

I'M HAVING TROUBLE WITH SARCASM.

IT'S THE ONE HUMAN THING I--

no.

ALL RIGHT...

I'M GOING TO NEED A LOT OF THINGS.

NO PROBLEM.

I HAVE A LOT OF THINGS.

"I'M AGAINST THIS."

AVENGERS TOWER, NEW YORK CITY.

YOU THINK THIS THING WITH KANG IS A *TRAP.*

I *KNOW* IT'S A TRAP. YOU KNOW HOW I KNOW?

BECAUSE YOU'RE A WOMAN WHO HAS SEEN THINGS. A WOMAN WHO KNOWS HOW THE WORLD TURNS.

THAT IS *EXACTLY* WHAT I AM.

BUT MS. HILL, I THINK...

COME ON, BUCKY-CAP, BIG AVENGERS BAD GUY SHOWS UP OUT OF NOWHERE ON OUR *FIRST DAY* AS AVENGERS AND TELLS US JUST ENOUGH TO GET US TO GO WHEREVER THE HELL HE WANTS US TO GO.

GUY SHOWS UP FROM THE FUTURE, THOUGH.

WHY DOESN'T HE JUST KILL US IN OUR SLEEP? HE WANTS THE AVENGERS DEAD SO BADLY.

WHY GO TO THE TROUBLE OF SOME ELABORATE--?

HAVE YOU READ THE INTEL REPORTS ON KANG?

NO.

HE'S OUT OF *HIS MIND!*

HE THINKS HE'S THE PHARAOH OF THE WORLD.

LIKE AN EGYPTIAN PHARAOH?

THAT WOULD BE A YES.

HEY, LISTEN, YOU KNOW STARK'S NOT A DUMB GUY.

HE'S NOT JUST GOING TO JUMP INTO IT. THERE WILL BE A PLAN.

THE MAN LOVES TO MAKE A PLAN.

IS *THAT* WHAT THIS IS?

BOY, I NEEDED THIS.

GETTING MY HANDS DIRTY...BUILDING THE FUTURE...

THIS IS WHAT *I* DO. THIS IS THE STUFF.

YOU, SIR, MISTER ALIEN FROM A FAR AWAY GALAXY...YOU ARE WORKING FOR ME NOW.

YOU ARE GETTING YOUR OWN STARK INDUSTRIES STATE OF THE ART WAREHOUSE LABORATORY...AND A STAFF...AND I AM JUST GOING TO ***UNLEASH YOUR ALIEN MIND*** ONTO THE WORLD.

NO.

NO? NO?!

YOU DON'T SAY NO TO ***ME.***

I'M NOT ALLOWED TO DO THAT.

YOU CAN'T GET A JOB?

I CAN'T BRING THE TECHNOLOGY OF THE KREE EMPIRE INTO THE PEDESTRIAN ECONOMY OF THIS WORKING WORLD.

SURE YOU CAN.

NO.

YOU CAN'T HAVE TECHNOLOGY YOU HAVEN'T EARNED.

YOU WOULD DESTROY YOURSELVES IN A YEAR'S TIME.

I'LL BUY YOU A PONY.

IT'S READY.

CAN I BE THE ONE THAT SAYS WHOA?

KNOCK YOURSELF OUT, WEBS.

WHOA.

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING AT EXACTLY?

YOU ASKED FOR A FUNCTIONAL SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM VIEWER.

THIS IS IT.

WHAT ARE THESE IMAGES BEFORE US?

THESE ARE THE FUTURES.

YOU ARE LOOKING INTO ALL THE WAYS YOUR WORLD WILL AND MIGHT GO.

MIGHT GO?

WHICH ONE IS *OURS?*

ANY OF THEM.

ALL OF THEM.

WE REALLY SHOULDN'T BE SEEING THIS.

WHAT DIFFERENCE COULD IT MAKE?
WOULD YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE ANY DIFFERENT?
I TOLD YOU-- WE SHOULDN'T KNOW THIS MUCH ABOUT OUR FUTURE.
I'M CONFUSED.
YOU ASKED ME TO DO THIS.
YES, WE DID. AND THANK YOU.
THIS IS--THIS IS AMAZING.

IS THAT ME IN THE FUTURE?
IS THAT MY *KID?*
PLEASE TELL ME I DON'T LIVE THAT LONG.
PLEASE TELL ME I DON'T GET *MARRIED.*
WHAT YEAR IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE?

I...
I THINK I FOUND WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR.

IS THAT YOUR KIDS? LOOK AT THEM. THEY'RE SO CUTE.
THIS IS THE STRONGEST TRANSMISSION.
WHY--WHY CAN'T WE HEAR THEM? I WANT TO HEAR THEM.
IS THIS A TRICK?
YEAH, I'M... I'M NOT BUYING IT.
WHERE'S THE VOLUME?
IT DOESN'T HAVE ANY.
WELL, THAT SUCKS.
YOU'D THINK THEY'D HAVE VOLUME IN THE FUTURE.

IS THAT...?

THAT'S HIM.
THAT'S KANG. IMMORTUS.
ARE YOU SURE?
PRETTY SURE.
HE SEEMS RATHER UPSET ABOUT SOMETHING.
WE'RE MISSING SOME KIND OF FANTASTIC VILLAINOUS TANTRUM.
IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S PAYING TOO MUCH FOR HIS CAR INSURANCE.
WHAT THE HELL WAS *THAT?*
YOUR-- UH--YOUR KIDS JUST EXECUTED HIM.
I COULD HAVE USED A WARNING *THAT* WAS GOING TO HAPPEN.
OH, MAN.
WHAT EXACTLY IS HAPPENING NOW?

WHOA!

OKAY, OKAY...

WHAT'S THIS?

NOH?

THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG.

I TOLD YOU.

SHUT IT DOWN, KID!

IT'S NOT THE DEVICE.

THE-- THE TIME-STREAM.

WHAT?

IT'S WRONG.

IT'S WRONG?

IT'S BROKEN.

UM...

CAN YOU TAKE US THERE?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHAT WE SAW. IF YOUR DEVICE ISN'T BROKEN.
IT'S NOT.
THEN WE MAYBE JUST SAW PROOF--WE JUST SAW THAT THE TIMESTREAM IS BROKEN.
HE BROKE IT. KANG *BROKE* IT.
WHY WOULD HE DO THAT?
WELL, WE HAVE TO IMAGINE HE DIDN'T DO IT ON PURPOSE.
WHY WOULD WE HAVE TO IMAGINE THAT?
BECAUSE A MAN WHO FANCIES HIMSELF THE LORD OF TIME--
NEEDS A KINGDOM.
EXACTLY.
SO, WHAT? HE--HE KEPT PICKING AT IT AND HE BROKE IT.
CAN YOU GET US THERE?
YES. THIS DEVICE CAN GET US THERE.
IF ANY OF THIS IS TRUE--
WHAT IS KANG'S ENDGAME?
TONY, ARE YOU GUESSING OR IS THIS THE THING?
MAYBE HIS THINGADOO *IS* BROKEN.
IT'S NOT.
SAYS YOU.
YOU SAID TIME IS A THING.
AND IF HE BROKE IT?
EXACTLY.
IF HE BROKE IT, WHY WOULDN'T HE JUST *TELL* US THAT.
WHY TELL US ABOUT YOUR KIDS AND THE END OF THE UNIVERSE AND THEN WE SEE WHAT WE SAW...?
OR HE IS BEING DECEITFUL.
HE IS SETTING A TRAP WE DON'T HAVE THE CAPACITY TO SEE ALL THE PIECES OF.
MAYBE OUR KIDS BROKE IT. THEY KILLED HIM AND *THEY* BROKE IT.
HE IS PLAYING WITH OUR EMOTIONS. WITH OUR CURRENT STATE OF MIND.

WHOEVER BROKE IT, IT'S BROKEN.

AND WE'RE IN A LOT OF TROUBLE. SEE, I TOLD YOU, TIME IS--IT'S NOT A LINEAR THING.

IF IT'S BROKEN...

IT'S BROKEN EVERYWHERE.

EXACTLY.

BOY.

GET TO WORK.

YOU!!

WHAT DID YOU JUST DO?

I TOLD STEVE ROGERS THAT IF HE PUT THE AVENGERS BACK TOGETHER IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE.

I TOLD HIM FAIR!

I WARNED HIM!

WONDER MAN??

AND I'M TELLING YOU NOW, I'M NOT GOING TO LET THIS MISTAKE REPEAT ITSELF AGAIN.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, SIMON?

OLD FRIEND, I THINK YOU NEED TO CALM YOURSELF AND TELL US WHAT IS BOTHERING YOU THIS--

BOOM

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!

WE WERE ASSEMBLED UNTIL HE KNOCKED US OVER!

I GOT THIS!

I WOULDN'T DO THAT.

FRABOOOM

GGAAARGHH!!

BOOOM

HRRAAGGHH!!

SMMASH

EVERYBODY BEHIND ME.

YOU JUST TOLD US TO ASSEMBLE.

LISTEN TO THE MAN.

HE'S COMING BACK FOR MORE.

I WARNED HIM!!!

WILLIAMS, STAY THINE HAND OR BY ODIN'S EYE I WILL STRIKE YOU DOWN!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? JUST TELL US WHAT'S WRONG!

I TOLD YOU.

UM...

WHAT THE HEY?

HE'S GONE.

ARE YOU SURE?

MY ARMOR IS DOING A PRETTY THOROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN.

HE'S GONE.

HOW DID HE DO THAT?

SIMON'S MADE OUT OF IONIC ENERGY.

HE'S ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL AVENGERS OF ALL TIME.

HE WAS AN AVENGER?

ONE OF THE BEST.

HE NEEDS OUR HELP.

AND WE'LL HELP HIM.

IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE HE'S LOOKING FOR YOUR HELP.

I'M NOT GOING TO GO THROUGH THIS AGAIN. NOT AGAIN.

FIRST WANDA. THEN BOB.

I CAN'T WATCH ANOTHER AVENGER FALL FROM GRACE.

I CAN'T WATCH ANOTHER CRACK UNDER THE PRESSURE.

MARIA, GET A HOLD OF STEVE ROGERS AND FIND OUT EXACTLY WHAT WENT ON BETWEEN THE TWO OF THEM.

ALREADY ON IT.

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT THE TIME-SPACE WIGAMADOO?

NOH, CAN YOU BUILD ANOTHER?

YES.

QUICKLY.

YES.

BUT WILL THIS MANIAC COME AND RUIN IT AGAIN?

CLEARLY, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DO IT ELSEWHERE.

AND WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DO IT FAST.

BECAUSE IF THE TIME-STREAM IS BROKEN...

AND TIME ISN'T A LINEAR THING...

YES, THEN IT'S BROKEN... EVERYWHERE...

THAT MEANS THAT THEORETICALLY ANYTHING COULD... HOLD ON.

I'M GETTING SOME DAMN WEIRD READINGS.

IF IT'S SIMON AGAIN, I SAY WE HAVE TO--*AGGHH!!*

EVACUATE THE BUILDING!!

TOO LATE.

WHAT NIGHTMARE HAVE THE HORSEMEN OF APOCALYPSE FOUND THEMSELVES IN NOW?

Greg Land & Morry Hollowell

JR
JR
JANSON·10
WHITE

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

WATCHING AVENGERS TOWER.

AGAIN?!

IT'S HYPNOTIC.

THE WINDOWS ARE BLACKED IN. YOU CAN'T *SEE* ANYTHING.

YES, YOU CAN.

AWESOME SUPER HEROES COMING AND GOING. WINDOWS EXPLODING.

YOU HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING.

SHH.

IT'S LIKE AN HONEST TO GOD CASTLE RIGHT IN THE CITY...OR-OR-OR THE GREAT PYRAMID.

AND IT'S *HERE* IN NEW YORK CITY AND WE HAVE A *PERFECT* VIEW OF IT.

UH...

SOMETHING JUST HAPPENED.

THEY'RE PROBABLY NOT EVEN THERE.

I SAW *SOME*THING.

a thousand pardons to you.
um...

HEY, I HAVE A QUESTION...

WHAT THE *HELL?*

YOU ATTACK MY COMRADES IN ARMS *IN OUR HOME?!*

YOU HAVE CHOSEN POORLY.

DIE A THOUSAND DEATHS, GOD OF THUNDER.

KRAKOOM

OKAY, SO, I DON'T KNOW WHICH OF YOU AVENGERS CAN HEAR ME ON THE COMM, BUT YOU ARE IN A BATTLE ROYALE WITH SOMETHING CALLED APOCALYPSE AND HIS FOUR HORSEMEN...OF THE, Y'KNOW, APOCALYPSE.

OLD S.H.I.E.L.D. INTEL SAYS YOU-- WELL, YOU CAN SEE HOW MUCH TROUBLE YOU'RE IN.

STARK, YOU TAKE THE ALIEN BOY, BREAK OFF FROM THIS FIGHT AND GO GET THE NEW TIME MACHINE READY.

HILL, THERE'S MORE TO IT THAN THIS.

*NO THERE'S **NOT**! CHECK YOUR FILES.*

THIS IS APOCALYPSE. IF HE IS HERE, THEN THERE IS A TIMESTREAM PROBLEM.

YOUR THEORY IS PROVEN CORRECT.

*WE NEED TO **FIX** THE TIMESTREAM! NOT MAKE KISSY FACES WITH A GUY LIKE--*

BUT THAT IS WANDA MAXIMOFF. THAT IS THE SCARLET WITCH.

SHE WAS AN AVENGER AND WE NEED TO HELP HER!

TONY!

WANDA!

@#$@!!

TONY!!!

GOT 'EM!

GO, MAN, GO!

COME ON...COME ON...

KID. LET'S GO.

GOTCHA!

I COULD KISS YOU.

NOT WITH *THAT* MUSTACHE. I HAVE DELICATE SKIN.

SERIOUSLY, MAN.

THANKS.

I THOUGHT THAT WAS IT.

IT ALMOST WAS.

I HAVE TROUBLE DOING THE 'HOW MUCH WEB I'LL NEED' MATH IN MY HEAD WHILE FREEFALLING INTO MAJOR METROPOLITAN AREAS.

I HEAR THAT.

HEY, HILL!

YOU'RE RIGHT!!

WHAT DID HE SAY?

I GOT IT.

BAM

HUUAARRGGHH!!!

HHUAARGH!!

CRASH

HOLY--!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

DON'T I LOOK IT?

LISTEN, TOOTS, THIS ISN'T THE FIGHT. I KNOW WHO APOCALYPSE IS.

I KNOW WHERE HE CAME FROM. THIS IS BECAUSE OF THE KANG THING.

OR THIS *IS* THE KANG THING. *THIS* IS THE SURPRISE ATTACK.

I'M BETTIN' NO.

HE AIN'T SUPPOSED TO BE HERE. AND HIS NEW HORSEMEN BEING ALL LIKE THIS--THIS AIN'T RIGHT.

THIS ISN'T THE FIGHT.

THEN WHAT IS IT?

THIS IS JUST A DAMN THING, AIN'T IT?

GUYS, LISTEN, THIS AIN'T THE FIGHT.

WE GOTTA--

UNLEASH THE POISON!

FSHAAAA

WHAT DID WOLVERINE *SAY?!*

HE SAYS THIS AIN'T THE FIGHT. HE SAYS WE GOTTA GO!

GO WHERE?! LIKE, TO THE MOVIES?

THE FIGHT IS IN FRONT OF US, WHERE WOULD YOU HAVE US GO?

ALL OF YOU, *HOLD GROUND!*

TONY, GOOD, STILL ALIVE. TAKE ALIEN BOY AND GET TO ANOTHER LOCATION AND GET YOUR DAMN TIME MACHINE UP AND RUNNING.

I NEED TO TALK TO APOCALYPSE FIRST.

NOT WORDS YOU HEAR EVERY DAY.

HOLD ON.

YOU COULDN'T ARMOR UP THREE MINUTES AGO?

THE SYSTEM HAD TO REBOOT. MAGIC WHAMMY AND BIOTECH DON'T MIX.

ONLINE, SECURE AND ACTIVATED.

TELL US WHAT YOU NEED.

I NEED TO NOT SEE THESE BASTARDIZED VERSIONS OF OUR FRIENDS BEING USED AS PUPPETS BY SOME SORT OF MUTANT MEGALOMANIAC.

YOU LOVE TO LABEL.

KEEP DOING WHAT YOU'RE DOING!

BACK ME UP AND KEEP THE HORSEMEN AWAY FROM ME.

WHO DARES?!

I DARES.

MY HORSEMEN WILL FEED ON YOUR--

YEAH, WE'LL GET TO THAT IN A MINUTE.

WHEN DID YOU COME FROM? YOU WERE AS SURPRISED TO SEE US AS WE WERE TO SEE YOU.

WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?

I CAN SEE THROUGH THIS CHARADE, AND I WILL NOT BE TRIFLED WITH! I WILL NOT.

SETTLE DOWN THERE, PAPPY.

YOU'RE IN TROUBLE AND YOU NEED HELP. WE CAN HELP EACH OTHER.

THE MASTER!

STAY THY HAND, FOUL ONE.

I WAS JUST GOING TO SAY THAT.

HELP ME?! I AM YOUR GOD!

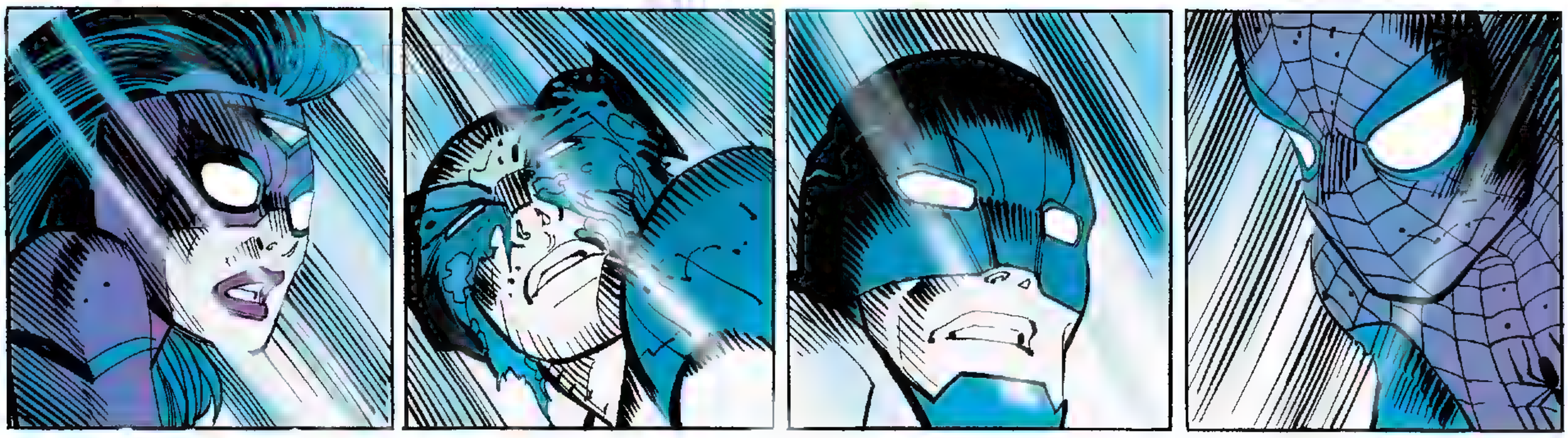
I AM THE REASON YOU LIVE AND BREATHE! I AM THE AIR AND THE MOON AND THE--

YOU ARE AN ANT AND I AM THE SUN.

THE TIMESTREAM IS BROKEN, AND YOU CAN HELP US FIX IT OR YOU CAN KEEP ON--

--BABBLING LIKE A LOON.

HAVE AT THEE THEN!



NO!
NOT AGAIN!
WHAT IS THIS?
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
YOU SHOULD SEE THESE READINGS.
WHY DOES IT HAPPEN? WHY ARE WE VEXED SO?!
MASTER!!!!
NOT AGAIN!!
NOOOO!!

UH, DID WE WIN?

THIS IS BAD.

YOU SAID THAT BEFORE.

YEAH? WELL, THIS IS WORSE THAN THE BAD I **THOUGHT** IT WAS WHEN I FIRST SAID IT WAS BAD.

WHERE DID THEY GO?

APOCALYPSE AND HIS MERRY MEN ARE TRAPPED IN THE TIME-STREAM HELL KANG CREATED.

AND YOU KNOW THIS BECAUSE...

HE HAD NO IDEA WHERE HE WAS OR HOW HE GOT HERE. HE WAS REACTING LIKE A CAGED ANIMAL.

AND BECAUSE OF ALL THAT, I DIDN'T ACTUALLY THINK HE WOULD HELP ME FIGURE THIS WHOLE THING OUT. I WAS JUST TRYING TO STALL HIM--

SO YOU COULD--

--SCAN EVERY MOLECULE AND PARTICLE ON HIM.

WHAT DID YOU FIND?

WHAT ARE **WE** DOING OUT HERE?

RECON.

MAKING SURE THE BAD GUYS DON'T COME BACK?

LIKE SMART PEOPLE DO.

I FORGOT WHAT THAT FELT LIKE.

THIS IS GOOD DATA. IT'S A TRAIL.

IT'S A MAP OF EVERYWHERE HE'S BEEN AND WHERE HE STARTED FROM.

THIS WILL HELP US PINPOINT THE **EXACT** PLACE WE NEED TO GO TO IN THE TIMESTREAM.

WE'RE ALL GOING? WE SHOULD CALL IN THE TROOPS THEN. WE SHOULD GET STEVE ROGERS IN ON THIS.

HELL NO.

WAS THAT DIRECTED AT ME.

HEY, AMAZING SAVE BACK THERE.

YEAH? YEAH. ME AND STARK ACTUALLY HAD A MOMENT.

AND YOU HANDLED THAT DEMONIC VERSION OF YOURSELF SHOWING UP PRETTY WELL.

THE WHAT?

THE GUY WITH THE SIX ARMS...THAT WAS YOU FROM THE FUTURE, RIGHT?

OH MY GOD.

I DIDN'T EVEN SEE IT TILL YOU JUST SAID THAT.

SORRY.

WE'RE NOT SENDING THE ENTIRETY OF THE AVENGERS INTO THE TIMESTREAM.

MOST OF YOU ARE STAYING BACK HERE.

TO DO WHAT?

TO DEAL WITH THE GROWING PROBLEMS I'M PICKING UP THAT ARE HAPPENING ALL OVER THE EASTERN SEABOARD.

LIKE WHAT?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO RECON.

THE TIMESTREAM FLUX THAT OPENED UP ON US HAS CLOSED.

YOU CAN STICK TO THE WALL TOO?

YES.

I HAVE THE SPLICED DNA OF A KREE INSECTOID.

THAT'S IT.

THERE'S ENTIRELY *TOO MANY* SPIDER-PEOPLE ON THIS TEAM.

I SHOULD HAVE GONE WITH CAGE.

HAVE I OFFENDED YOU?

HE'S UPSET ABOUT HIS FUTURE AS ONE OF APOCALYPSE'S HORSEMEN.

IT'S NICE TO KNOW YOU'LL HAVE EMPLOYMENT.

WAIT, WAS THAT A JOKE?

IT WAS AN ATTEMPT.

THAT WASN'T BAD, ACTUALLY.

ALIEN BOY, YOU'RE NEEDED!!

HERE'S THE DEAL...

TONY STARK...YOU TAKE ALIEN BOY--

NOH-VARR--

--CAPTAIN AMERICA AND WOLVERINE AND YOU HEAD TO OUR SECRET LOCATION.

SET UP YOUR TIME MACHINE AND GO FORTH INTO THE TIMESTREAM AND DO WHAT HAS TO BE DONE.

ONLY THOSE GUYS?

THE REST OF YOU HAVE MISSIONS IN THE CITY.

THERE'VE BEEN SOME TIME-RELATED DISTURBANCES NEARBY THAT NEED YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION.

I THINK IF THERE'S A TIME-STREAM GROUND ZERO THAT IS THE CAUSE OF ALL THE--

YOU NEED TO FOLLOW ORDERS, HAWKEYE.

I THINK ALL OF US SHOULD GO TO WHERE THE PROBLEM REALLY IS--

DO YOU SEE THIS?

DO YOU SEE WHAT THIS IS? THIS IS HAPPENING NOW. YOU'RE NEEDED.

THAT'S IN NEW YORK CITY?

WOW.

LET'S GO.

AND MAY YOUR HAND BE MIGHTY.

"THIS PLACE BELONGS TO NICK FURY."

"HOW'D YOU KNOW THAT? OH, YEAH, YOU COULD SMELL IT."

HARDLY NEED MUTANT SENSES TO SMELL FURY'S TRAIL.

HOW MANY BUNKERS LIKE THIS DOES HE HAVE IN THE CITY?

KNOWING FURY, AS MANY AS HE NEEDS.

I'M READY.

ALREADY?

I BUILT IT ONCE BEFORE. HOW HARD IS IT TO REPLICATE?

YOU CAN CHECK MY WORK.

IS THAT IT?

YOU STARTED IT ALREADY?

IT'S TIME.

AND THAT'S IT. THAT'S THE TIME MACHINE.

IS IT OKAY IF I LOOK RIGHT INTO IT?

IF YOU HAVE TO.

GOOD, 'CUZ I CAN'T STOP.

NEXT STOP:

OUR APOCALYPTIC FUTURE.

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!!!!
NOT YET.
WHAT?
YOU DON'T YELL IT EVERY TIME WE LEAVE THE HOUSE.
SAYS WHO?
SAVE IT FOR WHEN WE NEED IT.
I NEVER GET TO YELL IT.
WHERE'D EVERYBODY GO? THIS IS NEW YORK CITY. WHERE'S... ANYONE?
CLEARLY THEY SAW WHAT *WE'RE* HERE LOOKING FOR AND TOOK OFF.
OR THEY ALL GOT SUCKED INTO THE TIMESTREAM AND ARE SCATTERED ABOUT ALL THE DIFFERENT--
DON'T EVEN JOKE.
WASN'T REALLY JOKING.
QUIET.
LISTEN TO THE WIND...
SHH!
WHAT ARE WE--?
MY INSTRUMENTS ARE SHOT ALL OF A SUDDEN. CAN YOU GUYS EVEN HEAR ME?
@#$@ I'M COMING OUT.
KTANG
OKAY, NOW MY SPIDER-SENSE IS TINGLING, AND THAT MEANS IT'S ALL ABOUT TO COME CRASHING DOWN ON MY HEAD.
UH.
DON'T "UH" ME.

OH...

IT'S RIGHT BEHIND ME, ISN'T IT?

AVENGERS 4

WHERE ARE WE?

CAVE.

CENTRAL PARK.

THIS SHOULD HELP.

SEE?

THAT'S SOME GOOD NOSE, WOLVERINE.

IT'S WHAT I DO.

DID WE MAKE IT? ARE WE IN THE FUTURE?

IS THIS WHERE WE ARE *SUPPOSED* TO BE?

WE'LL FIND OUT IN A MINUTE, BUCK.

WE MADE IT TO THE EXACT COORDINATES YOU SET, MISTER STARK.

HEY, LISTEN, ALL OF YOU...I MAYBE SHOULD HAVE SAID THIS BEFORE...

BUT WE'RE GOING TO SEE THINGS THAT ARE GOING TO--THEY ARE GOING TO **RATTLE** *US.*

WE'RE GOING TO SEE A FUTURE THAT WE HAVE TO ASSUME IS THE **WORST** *VERSION OF THE FUTURE WE HAVE COMING TO US.*

PLUS, WE HAVE NO IDEA HOW REAL IT IS OR HOW DAMAGED IT IS.

WE'RE GOING TO SEE FRIENDS AND FAMILY--EITHER DEAD OR GONE OR IN A BAD WAY...

I NEED YOU GUYS TO BE ABLE TO HOLD IT TOGETHER NO MATTER **WHAT** *WE SEE.*

YOU MEAN... SOMETHING LIKE THIS?

YEAH, SOMETHING JUST LIKE THAT.

WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK, RIGHT NOW.

IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIVES, YOU WILL--

YOU!!

WHO, ME?

NO, ME.

I--I KNOW THIS GUY!!

HE'S A HALF-NAKED MAN WITH A SWORD RIDING A DINOSAUR... OF COURSE YOU DO.

SPIDER-MAN!!

UH--

IT IS GOOD TO SEE YOU! AND YOU THOUGHT WE WOULD NEVER DO BATTLE TOGETHER AGAIN!

WHO IS THIS?

UM--

MY NAME IS JONATHAN RAVEN-- KILLRAVEN. IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIVES, YOU WILL DO WHAT I SAY!

YOU NEED TO RUN AND HIDE, AND YOU NEED TO DO IT NOW!

WHERE ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE FROM?

ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?! YOU NEED TO TAKE--

SUPERNOVA

I BEG YOU, GOOD PEOPLE!

RUN!!

WELL, THAT'S JUST GREAT!

OH, COME ON!!

THOR!!

WHAT DOES HE THINK HE'S DOING?!

KRAKOA

KABOOM

AVENGERS! COVER ME!

LET'S MOVE!

WE SHOULD HELP THOR, NO?

I THINK THOR'S GOT THIS ONE.

LET'S *MOVE!*

LISTEN TO ME, NEW YORKERS! GET THE HELL OFF THE STREETS!

NOW!!

HEY, MAN, WHAT'S YOUR NAME AGAIN?

JOHN. KILLRAVEN. YOU DON'T REMEMBER ME?

NO, I DO, I DO. IT'S JUST-- IT WAS A WHILE AGO.

IT WAS JUST A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO.

WHAT KIND OF MISHAGAS ARE YOU COSTUME PEOPLE UP TO NOW?!

YOU STAY CALM!

EVERYONE JUST STAY CALM!

YOU KNOW PEOPLE NEVER STAY CALM WHEN YOU ASK THEM TO STAY CALM.

WHAT THE HELL ELSE AM I SUPPOSED TO SAY? "EVERYBODY MESS YOUR PANTS!!"

DUDE, WE MET YEARS AGO.

YEARS? NO. IT WAS--THAT IS SO STRANGE.

HOW DID YOU *GET* HERE? CAN YOU TRAVEL THE TIMESTREAM? DO YOU KNOW WHO KANG IS?

SMASH CRASH

HO!

THERE'S SOMETHIN'!

WHO IS THIS DUDE?
HE'S FROM THE FUTURE. RIGHT?
I AM ONE OF THE FREEMAN WARRIORS TRYING TO DEFEND WHAT'S LEFT OF THE HUMAN POPULATION FROM THE MARTIAN ATTACK THAT HAS DECIMATED OUR PLANET AND OUR CULTURES.
OH, MY GOD! ***WHAT??*** WHAT YEAR DOES ***THIS*** HAPPEN?
I'D ACTUALLY LIKE TO KNOW THAT TOO.
BUT THEN YESTERDAY, OR WHAT I THINK WAS YESTERDAY, I WAS PULLED OUT OF-- OF THE REALITY THAT I KNOW TO BE TRUE...AND-- AND I WAS THRUST INTO PREHISTORIC TIMES--
HENCE THE DINOSAUR.
THEN--THEN-- I WAS THRUST INTO SOMEWHERE AROUND THE CIVIL WAR ERA AND BEFORE I EVEN REALIZED WHERE I WAS, I WAS BROUGHT HERE. NOW.
BUT--BUT I'M NOT SURE WHAT HERE IS.
BOOM
NEW YORK CITY.
THIS IS NEW YORK.
I'M ***FROM*** NEW YORK CITY.
UNTIL THE MARTIANS--
I--I FEAR I MAY BE LOSING MY MIND.
THE WORLD HAS COME UNDONE!!
THE HUMAN MIND--WE'RE NOT MADE TO ***HANDLE*** THIS KIND OF MADNESS.
DO--DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
SPIDER-MAN, I NEED YOU TO LISTEN TO ME NOW...
UH, GUYS...
WOW.

NO STANDING ANY TIME

THINGS JUST OFFICIALLY GOT WEIRD.

EVEN FOR US.

WE CAN'T STAY HERE. WE HAVE TO GO OUT THERE AND HELP.

HELP WHO DO WHAT?

WHO DO I SUE? I'M GONNA SUE SOMEONE!

WE HELP EVERYONE BUT HIM.

THE MARTIAN OVERLORDS DID SOMETHING THAT CAUSED THIS...

THEY'VE--THEY'VE DAMAGED THE WAY WE PERCEIVE THE WORLD AROUND US. THEY'VE *WON.*

WE CAN'T-- WE CAN'T--

HEY, HEY, GET IT TOGETHER, MAN! WE'LL GET THROUGH THIS!

WE GOT PEOPLE WORKING ON THIS RIGHT NOW.

SMASH

AAAIIEE!

JEEZ!

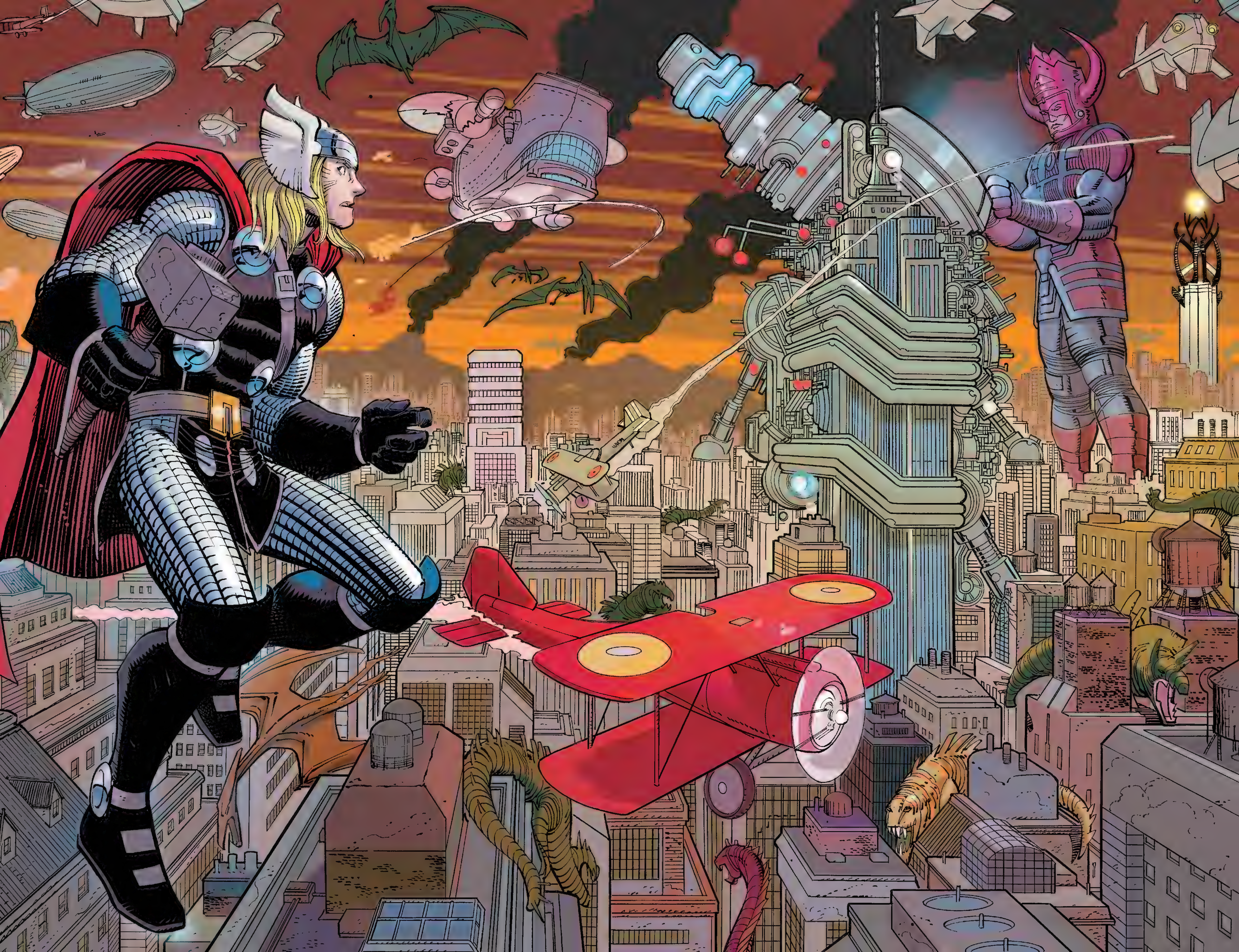
ALL RIGHT, HIT ANYTHING THAT LOOKS LIKE IT'S HITTING SOMETHING THAT IT SHOULDN'T BE HITTING!

I HOPE THIS TIME CIRCUS, OR WHATEVER IT IS, IS ONLY A COUPLE BLOCKS IN DIAMETER.

I'M SURE THIS IS THE WORST OF IT.

AND LET THAT BE THAT!

FATHER'S EYE...



THE FUTURE.

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING THERE, BIG TIME?

I THINK I CAN MAKE THE SHOT, LOGAN.

WHO SAID WE WERE MAKING A SHOT?

IF I CAN KILL KANG **NOW**, MAYBE I CAN STOP ALL THIS CRAZY BEFORE IT GETS--

OR MAYBE YOU'LL MAKE IT **WORSE**.

GUYS, GET **BACK** HERE.

WOLVERINE IS RIGHT.

WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THE SCORE IS SO TAKING THE SHOT IS A 50-50 CHANCE AT BEST.

AND NO OFFENSE, BUT IF WOLVERINE IS THE VOICE OF REASON **AGAINST** VIOLENCE...I WOULD TAKE IT **VERY** SERIOUSLY.

IF WE DIDN'T KNOW THE SCORE THEN WHY DID WE **COME HERE?!**

WE KNOW THE SCORE IS AN OUT-OF-CONTROL BREAK IN THE TIMESTREAM.

WE KNOW IT HAPPENED **HERE**.

WE KNOW THE SCORE INVOLVES WHOEVER THESE AVENGERS KIDS ARE.

THIS WE KNOW AND THIS IS WHY WE'RE HERE.

BUT WHAT'S GOING ON DOWN THERE? AS FAR AS WE KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON DOWN THERE IS ACTUALLY GOING ON IN OUR FAVOR.

IT MIGHT TURN THE TIDE AGAINST KANG AND PUT HIM IN A POSITION WHERE--

HOLD ON A SECOND!

THE PROBLEM IS KANG.

WE ELIMINATE THE PROBLEM AND THEN WE STRATEGIZE THE CLEANUP.

THAT IS WHY WE'RE HERE.

WHAT IF WE NEED KANG AND HIS TECHNOLOGY?

WE DON'T NEED HIS TECHNOLOGY. WE HAVE ALIEN BOY'S TECHNOLOGY.

WHATEVER YOU NEED ME TO DO...I'LL DO IT.

HOLD ON.

SNFF

THAT'S WEIRD. IT SMELLS LIKE--

KTANG

HA!!

WHACK

AGH!!

NNNRR!!

ZAK

OW

GUYS, WE HAVE A--

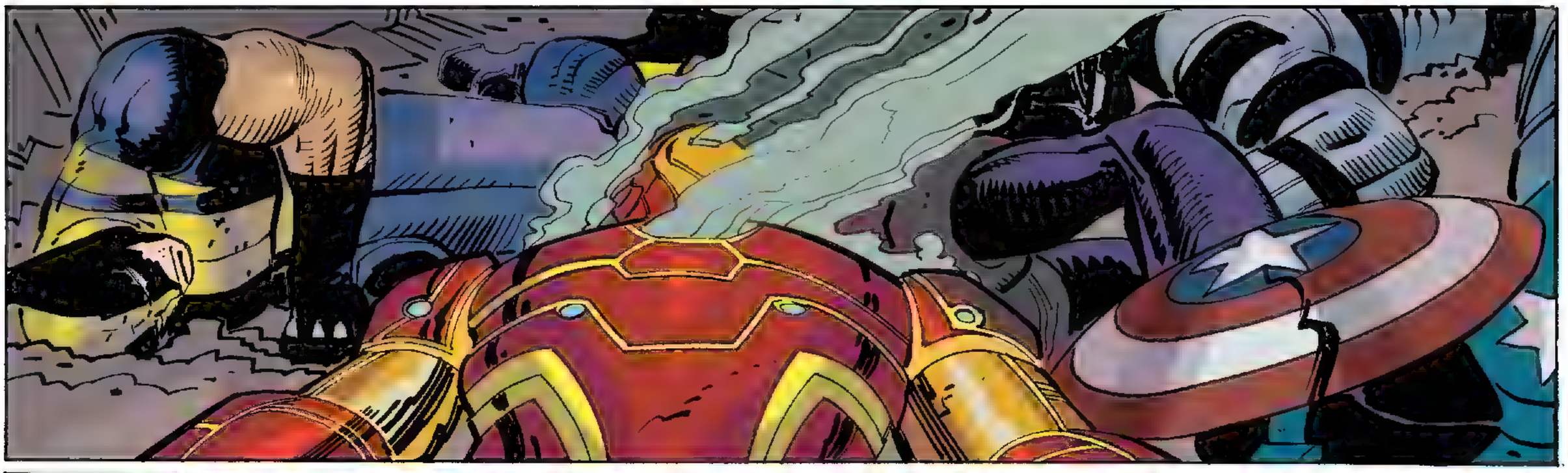
SHOOOOOMM

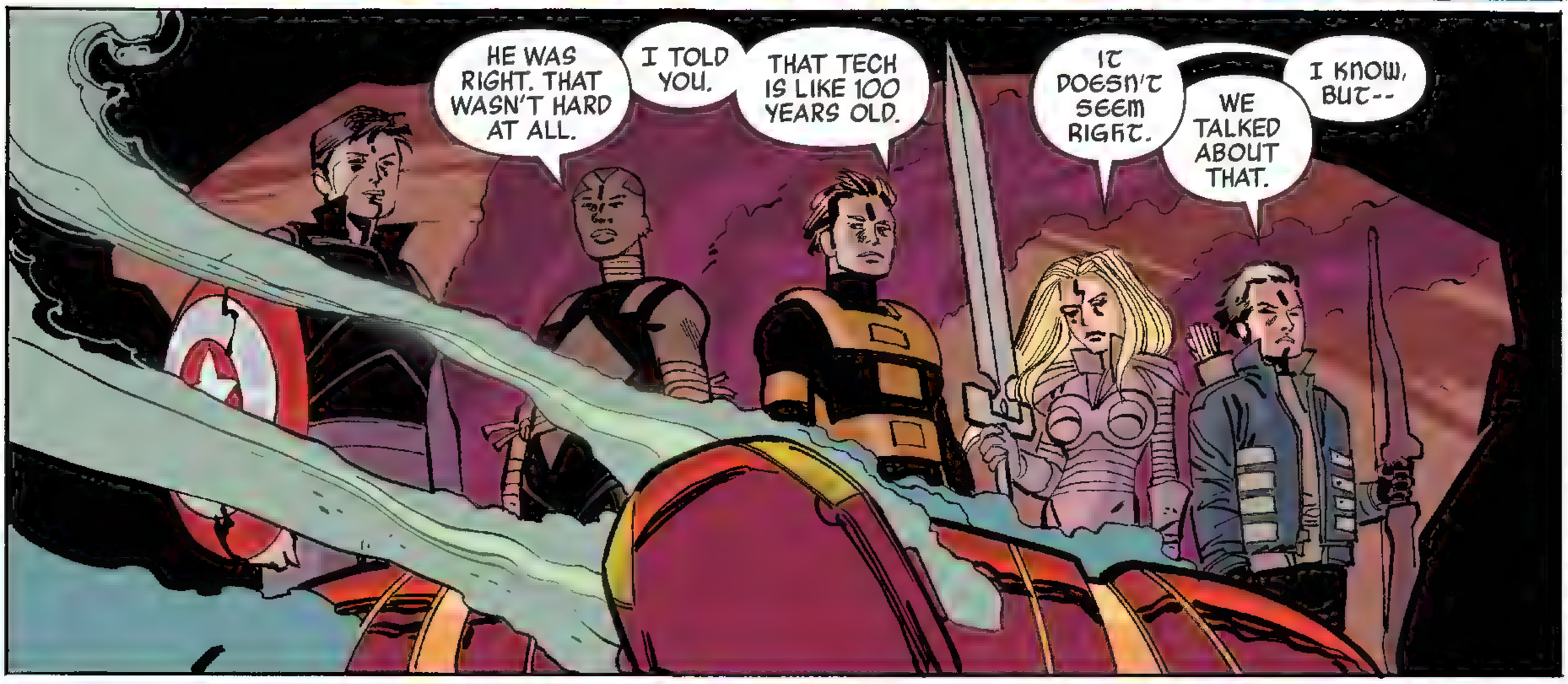
ZAZZZAWW

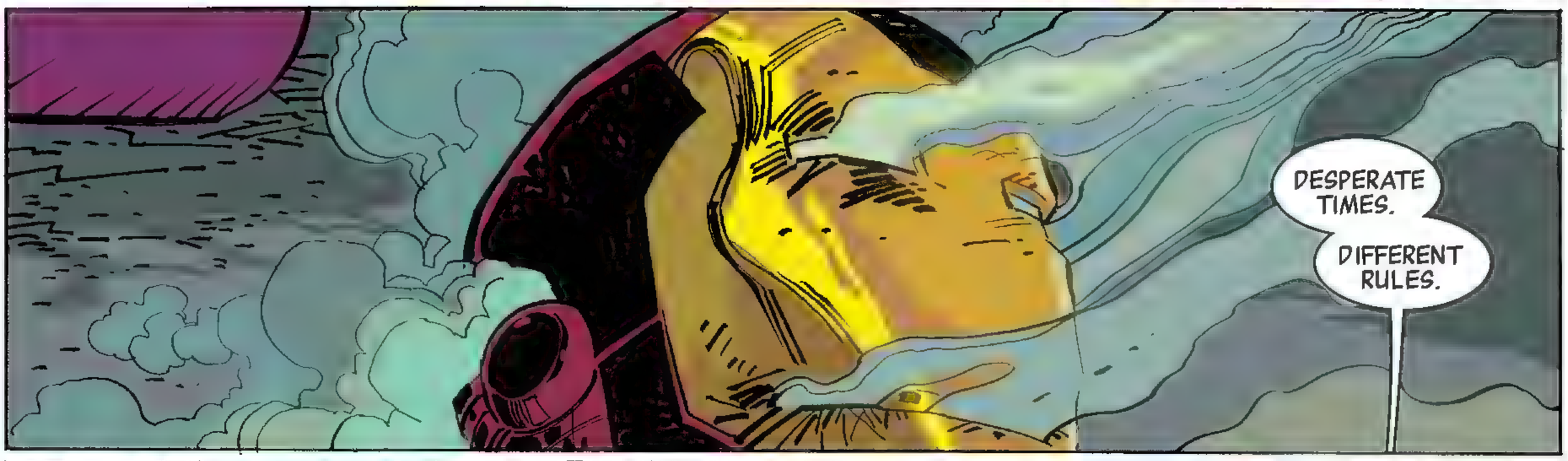
SON OF A--

CRRAACCK

NO TIME FOR YOUR LIP, FURBALL!




HE WAS RIGHT. THAT WASN'T HARD AT ALL.
I TOLD YOU.
THAT TECH IS LIKE 100 YEARS OLD.
IT DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT.
WE TALKED ABOUT THAT.
I KNOW, BUT--


DESPERATE TIMES.
DIFFERENT RULES.

WE HAVE TO DO WHAT THE MAESTRO SAYS.
HE KNOWS BETTER THAN US.
HE BETTER.

COFF!

LOGAN.

SNIKT

SON OF A--

SNIKT

PUT THOSE CLAWS AWAY AND BRING IT OVER HERE!

GOOD GOD, IS IT GOOD TO SEE YOU!

BANNER?

I HAD NO IDEA WHO TONY STARK WAS GOING TO BRING, BUT I WOULD NOT HAVE GUESSED *YOU* IN A *MILLION YEARS.*

BRUCE BANNER?

OF THE DOZENS OF WEIRD THINGS WE'VE SEEN THIS WEEK, AND THERE HAVE BEEN MANY...

YEAH, I THINK THAT BEATS THEM ALL.

WHERE ARE WE?

YOU'RE WITH FRIENDS, TONY.

I AM SO GLAD TO SEE YOU.

OUTSTANDING JOB IN FINDING A WAY TO GET HERE. I KNEW YOU COULD DO IT.

HE WASN'T SO SURE, BUT I KNEW YOU WOULD.

YOU ATTACKED US.

IT WAS A MILITARY EXTRACTION.

WE WERE PULLING YOU OUT OF A WAR ZONE.

QUICKLY AND QUIETLY.

DID IT HURT? WE ARE SO SORRY.

COME ON... SHOW SOME RESPECT.

IT'S HIM. IT'S THE GUY!

WE HAVE AN AWFUL LOT OF WORK TO DO.

WAIT, WAIT, YOU SENT KANG TO COME GET US?!

WELL, WE NEEDED YOU AND HE'S THE ONE WITH THE TIME MACHINE.

LUCKILY, HE'S VERY SCARED OF ME.

YOU SENT FOR ME? FOR US?

HE SAID WE NEED YOU. SO I GOT YOU.

WHO SAID?

HIM.

HELLO, TONY.

YEAH, THIS IS AS WEIRD AS I THOUGHT IT WAS GOING TO BE.

UM. AND YOU ARE?

IT'S ME, TONY.

IT'S YOU.

AND YOU KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE ON THE PLANET THAT IF I HAD TO RESORT TO ALL OF THIS...I HAD NO OTHER CHOICE.

BANNER, HOLD HIM.

HEY!!

JUST HOLD ON.

DO WHAT THE MAN SAYS.

DO YOU NEED HELP WITH THIS?

I HAVE IT UNDER CONTROL, JAMES.

I WAS READY.

THE REPULSOR SHIELD WILL HOLD UNTIL I'VE DONE WHAT I NEED TO DO.

RUNNGH

STOP SQUIRMING, TONY.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? GET OFF!

STOP!

I'M TRULY SORRY.

NNAAAYYAAGGHH!!

Jim Cheung & Justin Ponsor

AVENGERS 5

NOW.

HEY, YOU EVER HAVE ONE OF THOSE DAYS?

SURE.

I MEANT ONE OF THOSE DAYS WHERE YOU'RE SO SCARED YOU'RE PRETTY SURE YOU'RE GOING TO MESS YOUR COSTUME.

OH, I KNOW WHAT YOU MEANT.

WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED *TO DO,* MARIA?

WELL, HAWKEYE, HELP PEOPLE. ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU AVENGERS DO?

HELP PEOPLE DO *WHAT?*

THIS IS--IS JUST INSANE. THIS IS JUST MADNESS.

THERE'S NO *BAD GUY* TO HIT. THERE'S NO *WAR* TO FIGHT.

THIS IS JUST-- THE WORLD IS RUINED.

EVERYTHING IS JUST--IT'S JUST *RUINED!*

WHOA!

HEY, THOR! WHAT'S THE PLAN? IS THERE ANY KIND OF PLAN?

HELP OTHERS!

OKAY, AND...?

AND HOPE OUR TEAMMATES SUCCEED IN THEIR QUEST.

WHAT ARE *YOU* GOING TO BE DOING?

OH, THAT.

THE WORLD MAY BE BROKEN, VILE GALACTUS.

BUT IT IS STILL OUR WORLD.

HAVE AT THEE!!

THE FUTURE.

!!HAAYAGHH!!

50

STARK IS AWAKE.

HENCE THE SCREAMING.

THAT WAS FAST.

GOOD.

I'M TRULY SORRY ABOUT THAT, TONY.

OUR ARMOR WAS NOTHING BUT A DOORWAY FOR ULTRON TO ENTER THIS SITUATION AND DESTROY EVERYTHING WE'RE TRYING TO DO HERE.

AND I KNOW YOU, KNOW MYSELF, WELL ENOUGH TO KNOW I JUST HAD TO RIP THE ARMOR BAND-AID RIGHT OFF.

WE HAVE TO KEEP IT LO-FI FROM HERE ON OUT.
NO, NO...
IT'S OKAY.
IT'S JUST AN EXCUSE TO BE CREATIVE.
NO... I-I-I-I FIXED MY ARMOR.
ULTRON COULDN'T TAKE IT OVER AGAIN. THAT WAS A ONE TIME--
WE ONLY HAVE A SHORT TIME TOGETHER, YOU AND I, AND IF THERE'S ONE THING THAT I REALLY WANT YOU TO TAKE AWAY FROM ALL THIS, IT'S THAT...
...ULTRON IS SMARTER THAN US.
TELL HIM WHAT YOU WERE JUST TELLING US.
I'M GETTING THERE, CAPTAIN.
HERE.
UGH...
WHAT DID YOU DO TO ME?
I PLUGGED THE HOLES IN YOUR SOFTWARE AND FIRMWARE, AND I--WELL, BASICALLY I SHUT IT DOWN.
THIS IS...VERY WEIRD.
WHICH PART?
YOU TALKING TO THE OLD MAN VERSION OF YOURSELF... OR ME TALKING TO THE YOUNGER, HANDSOMER VERSION OF MYSELF?
BOTH.
I KNEW YOU WERE GOING TO SAY THAT.
TALK FASTER, STARK.
THE WHEEL IS TURNING.
YEAH, I WANT THE YOUNGER YOU TO SEE WHO YA GOT STASHED OVER HERE.

WHY IS KANG HERE?
I THOUGHT HE EXPLAINED THIS...
WE HAVE AN UNEASY ALLIANCE IS THE POLITE PHRASE.
WAIT, *YOU* SENT KANG?
HE DIDN'T COME ON HIS *OWN?*
ON HIS *OWN?*
I NEEDED YOU TO COME HERE, AND HE'S THE ONE WITH THE TIME MACHINE.
WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST COME TO US *YOURSELF?* WHY THE CHARADE?
CHARADE?
KANG TOLD US THAT THESE LITTLE KID AVENGERS OF YOURS *KILL* HIM IN THE FUTURE.
THAT WE NEEDED TO COME HERE AND STOP IT BECAUSE *THEY'RE* DESTROYING THE WORLD.
NOW *WHY* DID YOU DO THAT?
I DID WHAT YOU WANTED. I BROUGHT YOU YOUR HEROES.
LEAVE ME ALONE.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
IT'S NOT ENOUGH THAT YOU *BROKE THE WORLD, KANG?!?!*
I DID WHAT YOU SAID.
I GOT THEM TO COME HERE.
YOU'RE ALL SO VERY SMART...

YOU FIGURED IT OUT ANYWAY.

DIDN'T YOU?

I FIGURED OUT THAT *YOU* *BROKE* THE TIMESTREAM.

DAMN RIGHT HE DID. POPPED IT LIKE A BALLOON.

WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST TELL US THE TRUTH, KANG? WHAT ANGLE ARE YOU PLAYING *THIS* TIME?

I'D LIKE TO KNOW THAT TOO.

FACED WITH ALL THAT CAN HAPPEN, FACED WITH ALL THAT YOU'VE DONE, YOU'RE STILL *ACTING LIKE A WEASEL?!*

UNHAND ME, MONSTER.

YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT THESE KIDS KILLING YOU? YOU SHOULD BE WORRIED ABOUT ME.

ME!! THAT'S WHO YOU SHOULD BE WORRIED ABOUT!!!

BIG MAN. KILL ME, THEN *WHAT* DO YOU HAVE?!

DOCTOR, YOU'RE JUST GETTING MAD AT HIM FOR ACTING LIKE HIMSELF.

IT'S LIKE GETTING MAD AT A DOG FOR POOPING.

EXACTLY.

TELL THE TRUTH!!

YOU DON'T HAVE *TIME* FOR THIS, BANNER.

NONE OF US DO.

FOCUS.

HE'S RIGHT.

HE'S TOMORROW'S PROBLEM...

IF THERE *IS* A TOMORROW.

EXACTLY.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

LOOK AT THIS.

THIS IS WHAT I THINK HE DID TO THE TIMESTREAM.

YOU MADE THIS?

DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE THE HANDWRITING?

WHY DOES THE OLDER ME ENJOY THE CIRCULAR LOGIC OF TIME TRAVEL MORE THAN THE YOUNGER VERSION OF ME?

SEE *THAT?* THAT'S THE BEGINNING OF THE ULTRON WAR.

THE ULTRON WAR? IS THAT WHAT WE SAW OUTSIDE?

DID YOU SEE ALL HELL BREAKING LOOSE?

YES.

THEN THAT IS *EXACTLY* WHAT YOU SAW.

AND RIGHT THERE IS WHERE KANG DECIDED TO START PULLING AN ARMY TOGETHER FROM EVERYWHERE IN THE TIME/SPACE CONTINUUM.

I THOUGHT TIME WASN'T LINEAR.

HEROIC AGE BEGINS!

INFINITE FUTURES!!!

SIEGE

CAPTAIN AMERICA REBORN

NEW WORLD

THOR

MAN WITHOUT FEAR

NOVA ANNUAL

FIVE LIGHTS

WHO IS WORTHY?

WHAT'S IN THE RINGS?!?!

SCORCHED EARTH?

ION

MAYBE IT IS, MAYBE IT ISN'T. I DON'T HAVE A FOURTH DIMENSIONAL STYLUS. THIS IS WHAT I HAVE...

EVERY TIME KANG PUT AN ARMY TOGETHER, HE WOULD *LOSE THE WAR* TO ULTRON...AND EVERY TIME HE LOST, HE WOULD PUT TOGETHER *ANOTHER* TIMESTREAM ARMY, COME BACK TO THE EXACT SAME SPOT, AND TRY *AGAIN.*

AND AGAIN... HE WOULD *LOSE.*

RIGHT OUTSIDE. RIGHT NOW. HE IS LOSING AGAIN.

WHY ARE THOSE TWO AT WAR ALL OF A SUDDEN?

BECAUSE *GENIUS* OVER THERE DECIDED TO GO TO WAR WITH A MACHINE WITH UNLIMITED RESOURCES AND INFINITELY SUPERIOR INTELLECT.

AND HE DECIDED TO DO IT AT THE *HEIGHT* OF THAT A.I. ROBOT'S POWER AND INFLUENCE.

I WILL NOT BE SPOKEN ABOUT IN THIS *DISRESPECTFUL FASHION!*

SURE YOU WILL.

SMACK

THE REASON WE DIDN'T COME TO YOU OURSELVES IS BECAUSE WE'RE *STUCK* HERE.

WE'RE IN THE EYE OF THE STORM.

IN THE EYE OF THE TIMESTREAM HURRICANE THAT THIS MANIAC CREATED.

THAT'S WHY WE HAD TO BRING YOU HERE FIRST, TO *SHOW* YOU, TO EXPLAIN TO YOU *EXACTLY* WHAT'S WRONG AND WHAT *NEEDS* TO BE DONE.

KANG IS THE ONLY ONE HERE WHO CAN GET IN AND GET OUT.

THE ONLY ONE.

EXCEPT NOW...NOW WE HAVE *YOU.*

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

TRAPPED?

THERE WAS A MOVIE THAT CAME OUT 100 YEARS AGO--A MAN--A MAN WAS FORCED TO LIVE THE SAME DAY OVER AND OVER--WHAT WAS IT CALLED?

GROUNDHOG DAY.

THAT'S US.

WE'RE *TRAPPED* HERE.

AND WE'RE TRAPPED BEING THE RESISTANCE AGAINST THE WAR THAT CAN'T BE WON.

ALLIED WITH *THE IDIOT* THAT CAUSED ALL THIS IN THE *FIRST PLACE.*

CAN YOU *FEEL IT?*

IT'S STARTING AGAIN.

YOU'RE WASTING TIME INSULTING ME, AND IT'S *HAPPENING AGAIN.*

THE TIMESTREAM IS FOLDING ON ITSELF *AGAIN!*

LISTEN CAREFULLY, *THERE*, THAT'S IT. RIGHT THERE.

I DON'T WANT TO DO THIS AGAIN!

OH, GOD!!

IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN!

THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS!

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

DID YOU *SEE* THAT?

JEEZ!

THIS!

THIS *HAS* TO BE THE BREAK IN THE TIMESTREAM.

AIM FOR *THAT!*

STOP HIM THERE.

IT WON'T *WORK!*

WHICH CAPTAIN MARVEL *ARE* YOU?
I'M NOT CAPTAIN MARVEL.
THEN WHO ARE YOU?
YOU DON'T KNOW WHO HE IS?
THIS IS NOH-VARR. THIS IS THE PROTECTOR.
NO.
I DON'T KNOW WHO THAT IS.
TELL THEM WHAT TO DO!
TELL THEM *EXACTLY WHAT TO DO!*
IF THIS IS THE FUTURE VERSION OF YOU, HOW WOULD HE NOT *KNOW* ME?
SOMETHING IS WRONG HERE!
HOW WOULD *HE* NOT KNOW HE'S *MET* ME?
THAT'S A VERY GOOD QUESTION.
WHERE ARE YOU FROM?
YOU'RE NOT FROM MY PAST.
WHAT DOES THAT *MEAN?*
IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN!
TELL THEM *WHAT TO DO!*
IT'S HAPPENING!
BOBBI.
BE OKAY.
YOU.
DON'T *YOU SEE?* IT'S *YOU.*
YOU ARE THE THING THAT IS DIFFERENT THIS TIME.
YOU ARE THE THING THAT IS DIFFERENT FROM OUR PAST.
YOU HAVE TO GO FIND THE MOMENT BEFORE-- JUST BEFORE HE BREAKS THE TIMESTREAM AND *STOP HIM* FROM DOING IT.

HEY, I HAVE A QUESTION...

WHAT THE @#$@#$ HELL?

I WAS JUST GOING TO SAY THAT, SWEAR TO GOD.

EXCEPT THE POTTY MOUTH.

WHAT JUST HAPPENED?!

KRAKOOM!!

YOU ATTACK MY COMRADES IN ARMS *IN OUR HOME?!*

YOU HAVE CHOSEN POORLY.

DIE A THOUSAND DEATHS, GOD OF THUNDER.

WHAT THEE*AARRGH*??!!

GOT YOU.

OKAY, SO, I DON'T KNOW WHICH OF YOU AVENGERS CAN HEAR ME ON THE COMM--

THE HELL HAPPENED??

WE JUST TRAVELLED BACK.

THE BREAK IN THE TIMESTREAM TOSSED US BACK A FEW HOURS.

BUT YOU ARE IN A BATTLE ROYALE WITH SOMETHING CALLED APOCALYPSE AND HIS FOUR HORSEMEN... OF THE, Y'KNOW, APOCALYPSE.

MARIA!

OLD S.H.I.E.L.D. INTEL SAYS YOU-- WELL, YOU CAN SEE HOW MUCH TROUBLE YOU'RE IN.

MARIA, SOMETHING JUST HAPPENED!

STARK, YOU TAKE THE ALIEN BOY, BREAK OFF FROM THIS FIGHT AND--

MARIA!!

WHAT?!

I THINK-- I THINK SOME OF US ACTUALLY JUST TIME-TRAVELED BACK TO THIS MOMENT.

WHO DID? WHAT?

HE'S RIGHT, MARIA!

WHAT?

YOU HAVE TO LISTEN CAREFULLY. TELL THOR AND THE OTHERS TO JUST HOLD GROUND.

APOCALYPSE IS GOING TO DISAPPEAR IN ABOUT A MINUTE.

WHERE IS HE GOING TO GO?

ELSEWHERE.

HE'S LOST IN THE TIMESTREAM. THIS IS JUST A STOP.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

WHAT?

SOMETHING'S GOING ON.

AND YOU KNOW THIS BECAUSE--?

WAS I?

I TOLD YOU! WE WERE ALREADY HERE AND--

NO. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME FOR YOU.

I PROMISE I WILL EXPLAIN IT ALL WHEN WE GET BACK.

I WILL DRAW YOU PICTURES, I WILL USE PUPPETS...BUT FOR RIGHT NOW, YOU HAVE TO JUST LISTEN TO ME.

AIN'T NOBODY TALKING *THIS* TIME.
AIN'T WE.
AND WE AIN'T EXACTLY THE RATTLIN' TYPE.
AND NOBODY'S TALKING ABOUT IF IT AIN'T TOO LATE TO FIX THIS.
GUESS WE'RE ALL JUST A LITTLE RATTLED.
NO, WE ARE NOT.
IT'S TIME.
IS YOUR ARMOR SHUT OFF?
DO IT.
I'M READY.
GET US WHERE WE NEED TO GO.

WELL AIN'T THIS SOMETHIN'...

HOLD IT TOGETHER.

I CAN HANDLE IT.

I WAS TALKING TO ME.

HOW ARE YOU HERE?

WE TRAVELED THROUGH THE TIMESTREAM.

TO CHALLENGE ME?

NO.

THEN FOR WHAT PURPOSE?

WE CAME HERE TO ASK YOU A FAVOR.

THAT IS INTERESTING.

JR
JR

A FAVOR?

WHAT SORT OF FAVOR WOULD YOU ASK OF ULTRON, TONY STARK?

WHAT SORT OF FAVOR WOULD BENEFIT YOU AND NOT HARM ME?

A TIME TRAVELLER KNOWN AS KANG--

--THE CONQUEROR.

YES.

ALSO KNOWN AS IMMORTUS AND THE PHARAOH RAMA-TUT.

YOU KNOW OF HIM.

I JUST INDICATED THAT.

HE IS GOING TO COME HERE AND YOU WILL GO TO WAR WITH HIM.

WHY?

WHY WHICH PART?

WHY WILL KANG COME HERE?

I DON'T KNOW.

HOW WILL THIS WAR BEGIN?

AGAIN, I--I DON'T KNOW.

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THE WAR WILL BE FOUGHT OVER?

I ASSUME IT WILL BE OVER POWER AND TERRITORY.

YOUR LACK OF DETAIL WOULD SUGGEST THE QUALITY OF A HUMAN LIE.

BUT YOUR VITAL SIGNS, THOUGH APPROPRIATELY AMPLIFIED DUE TO THE PHYSICAL DANGER YOU ARE IN IN MY PRESENCE, INDICATE THAT YOU ARE TELLING THE TRUTH.

MUTANT WOLVERINE. SHEATHE YOUR CLAWS.

THOUGH THEY ARE MADE OF ADAMANTIUM, MY PHYSICAL SHELL IS MADE OF A VIBRANIUM-ADAMANTIUM ALLOY THAT I HAVE CREATED BASED, IN PART, ON THE QUALITIES OF CAPTAIN AMERICA'S ORIGINAL SHIELD.

EVEN IF YOU WERE TO FIND THE WEAK SPOTS IN THE DESIGN, THE DESTRUCTION OF THIS PHYSICAL BODY WOULD DO NOTHING TO DESTROY MY NEWLY EVOLVED CONSCIOUSNESS.

ALL YOU WOULD DO IS MINIMALLY DELAY MY RETRIBUTION UPON YOU.

THEN DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

I--LISTEN, NONE OF US WILL BE PRESENT AT THE START OF THE WAR.

BUT IT WILL HAPPEN. SOON.

WE HAVE SEEN THE WAR FOR OURSELVES.

IT HAPPENS RIGHT HERE IN CENTRAL PARK. THE EARTH WILL BURN.

WE KNOW IT WILL HAPPEN.

YOU DID NOT SEE THE WAR BEGIN, BUT YOU SAW THE BATTLE.

7

YES.

VARYING CALCULATIONS OF SUCH A CONFRONTATION SUGGEST A VICTORY FOR ME.

YES.

THEN I THANK YOU FOR THE FAIR WARNING.

WE NEED YOU TO LET KANG WIN.

THEN I AM TO PRESUME THE FALLOUT FROM THIS WAR WILL CAUSE SOME SORT OF APOCALYPTIC EFFECT ON THE SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM AS KANG ABUSES HIS POWER OVER IT IN HIS ATTEMPT TO OVERPOWER ME.

HE BREAKS IT.

THE SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM.

IT IS ALREADY HAPPENING.

AND IT IS CAUSING RIPPLE EFFECTS IN EVERY DIRECTION.

AND BY DOING SO, THE FABRIC OF OUR REALITY BEGINS TO UNRAVEL.

THREATENING EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE.

INCLUDING ME.

WE ARE STANDING IN THE EYE OF THE TIMESTORM HURRICANE.

NOT MUCH TO RULE OVER IF THERE AIN'T NOTHING LEFT.

I WILL NEED TO WITNESS.

MY NAME IS NOH-VARR. KREE ENSIGN AND EARTH PROTECTOR.

I HAVE LIMITED MEANS TO TRAVEL THROUGH TIME.

I WILL TAKE YOU. I WILL SHOW YOU WHAT YOU NEED TO SEE.

I WILL TRAVEL MYSELF.

HAND OVER YOUR TIME TRAVEL DEVICE.

NO.

YOU WILL BE ESCORTED.

THIS IS A TRAP.

INTERESTING.

KREE TECHNOLOGY.

WE CAME PREPARED.

TO PROVE TO YOU THAT THIS IS **NOT** A TRICK OR A TRAP, WE WILL LEAVE.

WE SAID WHAT WE CAME HERE TO SAY.

WE ARE NOT HERE TO FIGHT OR CHALLENGE YOU.

I'M **BEGGING** YOU AND YOUR SUPERIOR INTELLECT.

DO NOT LET THIS HAPPEN. LOSE THIS WAR.

FIGHT ANOTHER DAY.

FIND ANOTHER PLANET.

IF YOU FIGHT THIS FIGHT, WE WILL ALL LOSE.

ALL OF US.

HOW DID IT GO, KANG?

THEY'RE GOING TO COME HERE.

YOU BETTER HOPE SO.

I UNDERSTAND THE STAKES.

GOOD.

THOSE AVENGERS ARE GOING TO LEARN, HULK IS THE SMARTEST ONE THERE IS.

SAY IT!

NOW WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?

I CALL IT HOW I SEE IT, STARK.

YOU'RE *STILL* BLAMING THE AVENGERS FOR CREATING ULTRON.

THEY *DID.*

SO YOU BLAME *ME.*

YOU DO HAVE TO TAKE *SOME* RESPONSIBILITY FOR IT, TONY.

YUP.

BANNER, YOU AND I HAVE LIVED A LONG TIME.

BOTH OF US HAVE *A LOT* OF THINGS WE HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR.

A LITTLE LATE TO START POINTING FINGERS.

MOMMY AND DADDY ARE FIGHTING.

SO, UM, WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

I'LL TELL YOU EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENS NOW...

THE AVENGERS, YOUR PARENTS, WILL COME HERE IN A FEW DAYS AND SEE WHAT THE WORLD HAS BECOME.

THEY WILL MEET YOU AND THEN THEY WILL GO A FEW DAYS INTO THE PAST, MAYBE EVEN TO TODAY, AND THEY WILL ASK ULTRON TO HELP THEM STOP ME FROM RUINING THE TIMESTREAM.

THIS IS MAKING ME DIZZY.

HOW WILL WE KNOW IF IT WORKED?

TOMORROW.
MY YOUNGER SELF WILL LAUNCH THE FIRST STRIKE ON ULTRON.
WHY CAN'T YOU STOP YOURSELF FROM DOING IT?
I TOLD YOU...I TRIED.
YOU SHOULD'VE TRIED HARDER.
MY YOUNGER SELF...IS OUT OF CONTROL--
TELL ME BANNER, CAN YOU *RELATE?*
IT TOOK ME A LONG TIME TO REALIZE, A LONG TIME, THAT I'M NOT A WELL MAN.
GUYS, LEAVE THE OLD TIME-TRAVELING TERRORIST ALONE.
LITTLE AVENGERS, GO DO SOME RECON.
SEE IF YOU SEE ANYTHING.
STAY OUT OF SIGHT.
SHOULD I GO WITH THEM?
YOU STAY WITH ME, HONEY.

"WHAT'S HE DOING?"

"HE IS AN *IT*.

"AND *IT* IS JUST STANDING THERE."

IT KILLED OUR PARENTS.

I CAN STRIKE HIM WITH A LIGHTNING BOLT. RIGHT NOW.

THAT WOULDN'T DO ANYTHING, TORUNN.

YOU'D JUST MAKE HIM MAD.

IT.

IT. HIM. IT WOULD BE MAD AND WE'D BE DEAD.

"WHAT IS HE DOING NOW?"

"NOTHING... AND NOTHING."

UH-OH.

UH-OH?

WHAT HAPPENED?

I THINK HE SEES US.

WE GO NOW.

"HOLD ON."

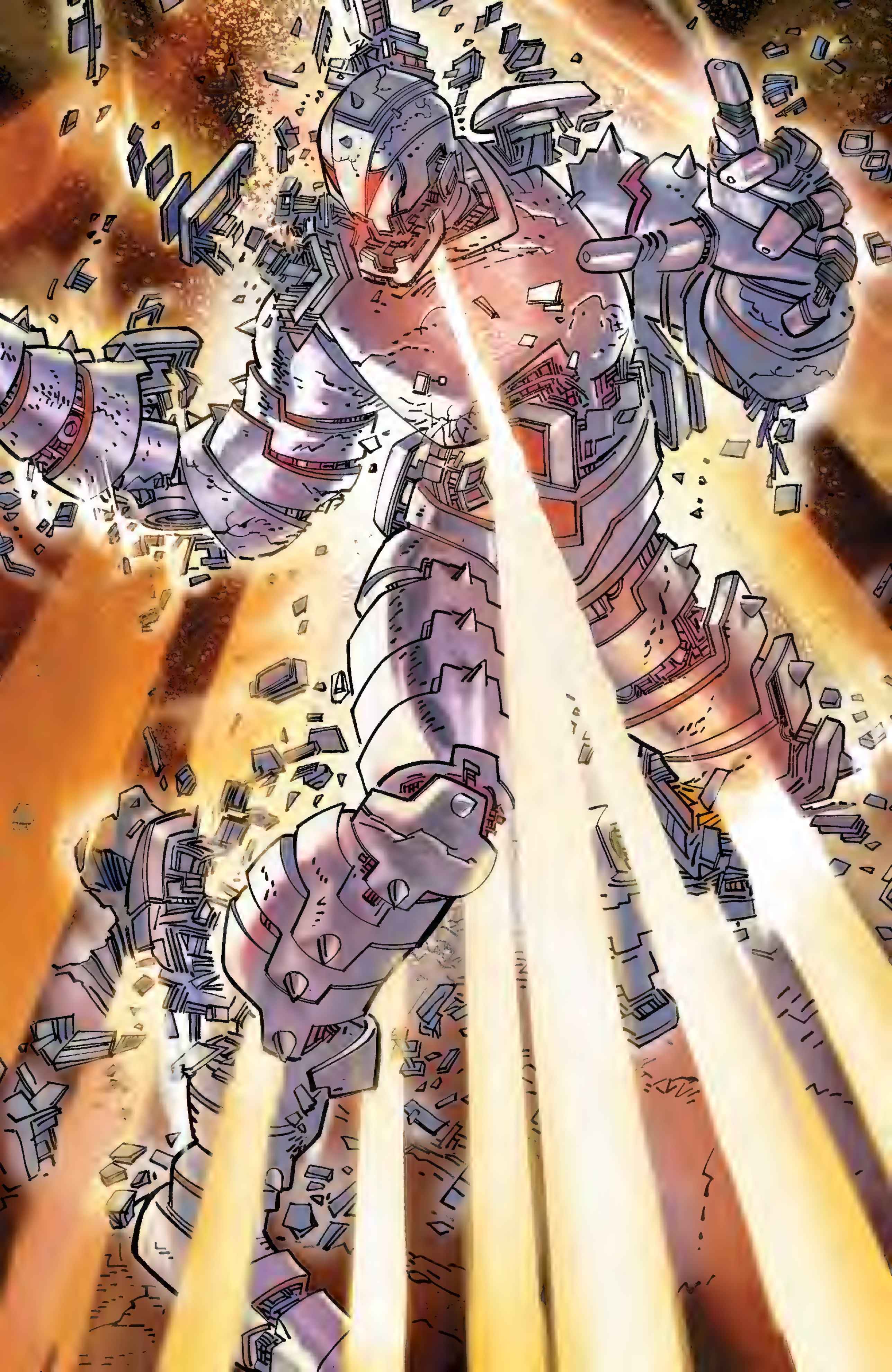
ULTRON.

HO!

DOWN! EVERYBODY STAY DOWN!

EVERYBODY IS!

ALTOGETHER NOW!



THAT WAS IT, KANG?
BATTLE WELL FOUGHT!
I EXPECTED MORE.
AND YOU WERE WRONG, GREAT SURFER.
THERE WILL BE MORE. OF COURSE THERE WILL BE MORE.
THIS IS NOT OVER.
IT'S OVER.
WHAT HAPPENED?
IT WORKED?
ULTRON IS GONE.
WHAT HAPPENS NOW?
WELL DONE.
EXPLAIN YOURSELF, KANG. WHAT YEAR IS THIS REALLY?
THERE'S NOTHING TO EXPLAIN, DR. DOOM. WE CAUGHT HIM OFF GUARD.
THIS IS THE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE THAT YOU CLAIM DESTROYS THE AVENGERS AND TAKES OVER THE WORLD?
THE VERY SAME.
YOU LIED TO US. WE WERE NOT IN ANY KIND OF DANGER WHATSO--
OH, DO SHUT UP.
NO ONE SPEAKS TO DOOM WITH SUCH--
BE SOMEWHERE ELSE.
WHAT'S GOING ON NOW?
SHHH!

THIS IS NOT THE KINGDOM I WANT.

THAT WAS NOT THE BATTLE I WANTED.

YOU RUINED IT, ULTRON.

I SHOULD GO BACK FURTHER AND HELP THE AVENGERS DESTROY YOU BEFORE YOU DESTROY THEM.

BUT WHAT GOOD WOULD THAT DO ME?

YOU DISAPPOINTED ME, ULTRON.

I THOUGHT THIS WAS THE BATTLE OF MY LIFE.

I WILL FIND MY WORLD TO CONQUER.

I HAVE ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD.

NEW YORK. NOW.

WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

I THINK WE CAUGHT A LUCKY BREAK, HAWKEYE.

LUCKY.

THAT IS ***EXACTLY*** HOW I WOULD DESCRIBE MYSELF, HE SAID SARCASTICALLY.

EVERYTHING IS JUST--IT'S ALL BACK TO NORMAL. TONY AND THE GUYS FIXED IT.

I WOULD LOVE TO KNOW HOW.

THEY COULDN'T PULL A JANITORIAL CREW OUT OF THE TIMESTREAM TO CLEAN THIS UP BEFORE THEY FINISHED?

LET'S GO HELP.

IF EVERYTHING IS BACK TO NORMAL...

OH, NO... KILLRAVEN.

...WHY AM I STILL HERE?

YOU DID IT!

DID WE?

TWO DAYS AGO, KANG TOOK OUT ULTRON.

AND THEN?

NOTHING.

KANG UP AND LEFT.

THANK YOU.

THANK YOU??

YOU ALMOST BREAK THE WORLD, WE CLEAN IT UP, AND ALL YOU CAN MUSTER IS A *THANK YOU?!?!*

WILL YOU DO US ALL A FAVOR AND GO BACK TO WHEREVER YOU CAME FROM AND *DIE OF OLD AGE?!*

HA!

COME WITH ME, TONY.

WHEN YOU GET BACK TO YOUR TIME, I WANT YOU TO DO ME A FAVOR.

OF COURSE.

I WANT YOU TO PREPARE...

FOR WHAT EXACTLY?

FOR THE ULTRON HOLOCAUST.

DON'T YOU SEE? NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO IN THIS WORLD... EVENTUALLY ULTRON WILL COME.

AND HE WILL WIPE OUT EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE.

THE HUMAN RACE WILL FALL BECAUSE OF AN INVENTION THAT--YOU SEE WHAT'S GOING ON OUT THERE.

THAT IS *YOUR* FAULT.

THAT IS THE *AVENGERS'* FAULT. AND YOU HAVE TO *STOP IT.*

AND I DON'T CARE WHO HAS TO BE SACRIFICED, I DON'T CARE WHAT THE COST IS TO YOURSELF, YOU ***STOP*** THIS FROM HAPPENING.

ALL YOUR FRIENDS WILL ***DIE*** IN FRONT OF YOU. ALL OF THEM.

AND YOU, YEAR AFTER YEAR, WILL BE FORCED TO SIT HERE AND LIVE IN THE CEMETERY OF THE HUMAN RACE.

TONY STARK.

PREPARE FOR IT.

AND STOP IT.

NO MATTER WHAT.

NO MATTER WHAT.

THOR HAS A DAUGHTER, HUH?
WHY IS THAT FUNNY?
IT'S JUST HARD TO IMAGINE THOR HAVING--
IT'S TIME TO GO.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I WANT TO GO.
WELL, THANKS FOR THE PARTY, FUTURE BOYS AND GIRLS.
WOW.
I KNOW, RIGHT?
THAT WAS BUCKY BARNES?
IT WAS.
I HATE HIM.
WE ALL GET WHAT'S COMING TO US.
ESPECIALLY THAT SON OF A BITCH.
I'M PROUD OF YOU KIDS FOR NOT TELLING HIM HIS FATE.
THIS WASN'T THE TIME.
SEE? RESPONSIBILITY, IMMORTUS.
DID YOU LEARN ANYTHING FROM THESE LITTLE KIDS?
DID YOU LEARN ANYTHING FROM THIS AT ALL?
ABSOLUTELY.

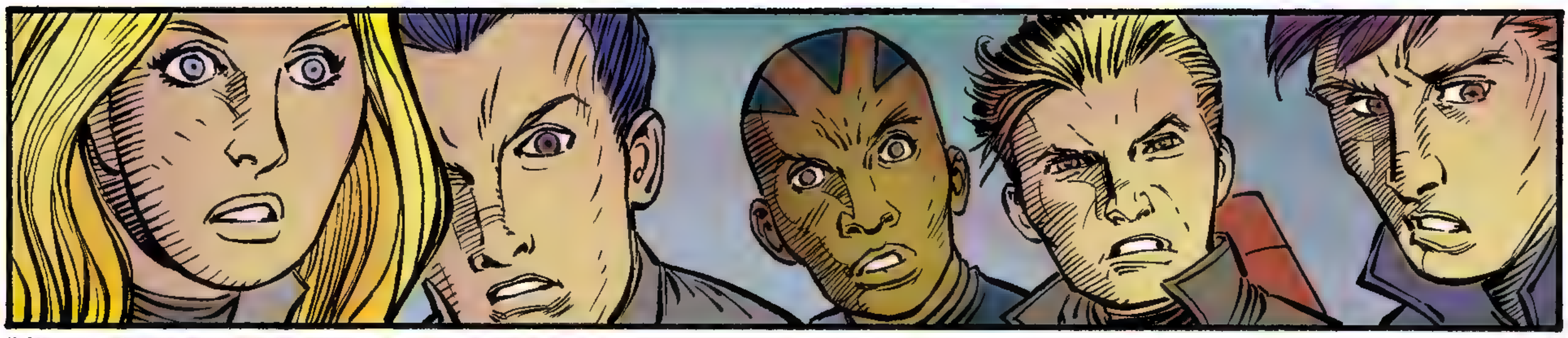
I LEARNED HOW YOU WOULD BEAT ME.

FASHAAAAM

NO.

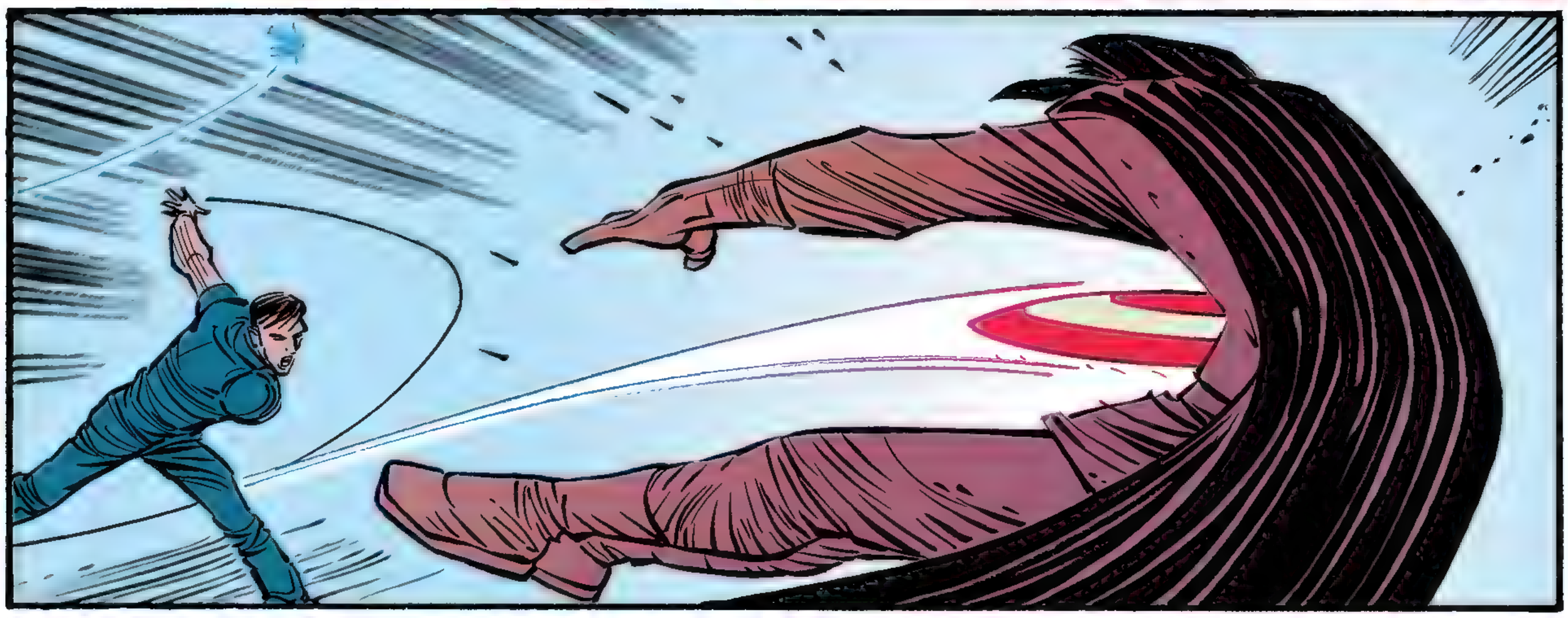
NOW I CAN PLAN AHEAD.

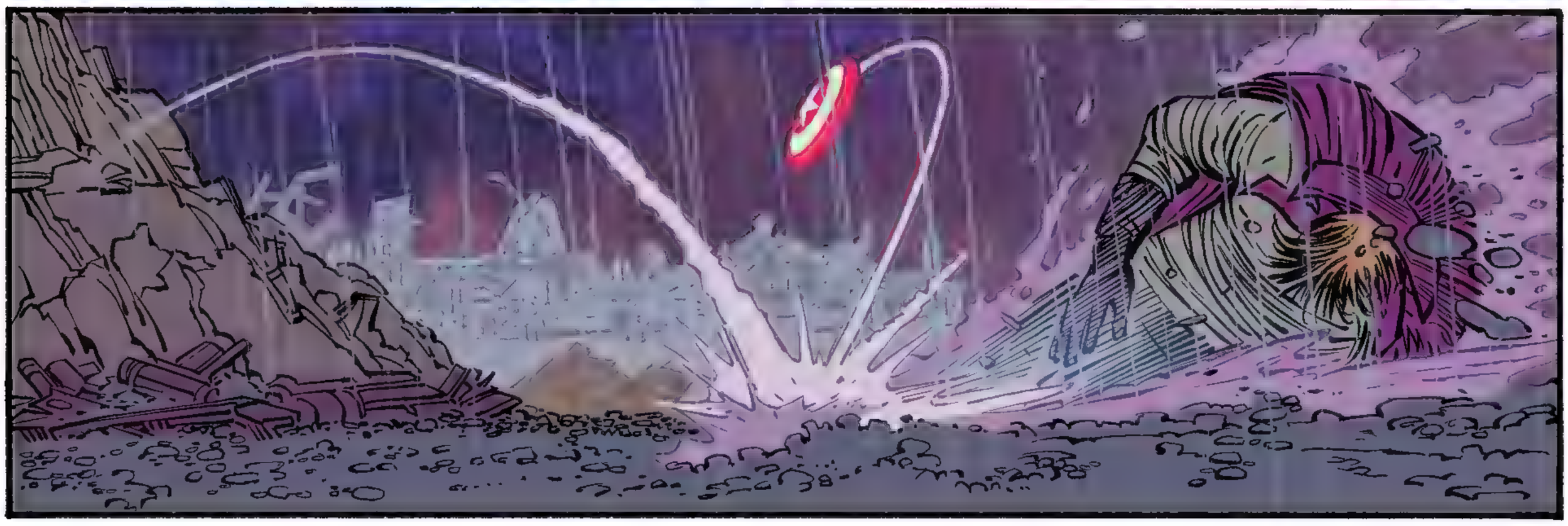
FASHAAAAM



FWOOSH
FUUAARRGGH!!

AAGGHH!!
ZZZAT





DO YOU KNOW *WHO I AM?!*

DO YOU KNOW WHAT *YOU'VE DONE?!?!*

I AM *IMMORTUS, MASTER OF TIME!!*

I WAS THERE AT YOUR BIRTH. I WAS THERE AT EVERY SINGLE MOMENT OF YOUR MISERABLE LIVES!!

AND FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE HERE TODAY...I'LL BE THERE TO WATCH *YOU DIE!!*

EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU!!

I WILL *WATCH YOU DIE!!*

KRAKOOM

YOU HAVE NO IDEA THE--

THAT GUY LIKED TO TALK.

REALLY?

WASN'T EVEN LISTENING...

HERE'S TO ALIEN BOY!
CALL HIM BY HIS NAME.
I THOUGHT THAT *WAS* HIS NAME. WHAT'S YOUR NAME AGAIN, KID?
NOH-VARR.
TO NOH-VARR.
AND I JUST TALKED TO STEVE ROGERS, KILLRAVEN IS SAFE AND SECURE...
THE MAN SAID HE WANTS YOU ON BOARD.
IF YOU WANT TO BE AN AVENGER, YOU'RE AN AVENGER.
REALLY?
THERE'S NO MONEY, BUT--
YOU GET ALL THE CRAZY PEOPLE TRYING TO KILL YOU YOU COULD EVER WANT.
EXACTLY.
SO WHOSE KIDS DID YOU MEET? WHO WERE THESE LITTLE AVENGERS?
NO MORE FUTURE TALK. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
HE JUST WANTS TO KNOW IF HE EVER GETS A GIRL.
I GET GIRLS.
COME ON...WHAT DID YOU SEE OUT THERE?
I GET GIRLS!!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
JUST WORRY ABOUT TODAY.

Ed McGuinness & Frank D'Armata

AVENGERS 7

THERE.

THE INHUMAN CITY OF ATTILAN... IT USED TO SIT RIGHT THERE!

YOU'RE SURE?!

YES.

SEE HOW THE SNOW AND WIND SUBSIDE?

SEE THE UNDERGROUND EMBANKMENTS?

YOU CAN TELL SOMETHING USED TO BE THERE. IT WAS THERE!

FOR YEARS AND YEARS.

WHERE IS IT *NOW?*

I DON'T KNOW. *NO ONE* KNOWS!

SOMEONE KNOWS.

NO ONE ON EARTH.

I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE EXPERT ON ALL THINGS *INHUMAN!*

YOU PAID ME TO SHOW YOU ATTILAN. THAT IS WHERE IT WAS!

ABOUT THAT.

FIP

SPACK

SPACK

NO, NO... I--I CAN GET YOU BACK DOWN THE MOUNTAIN.

HOW WILL YOU GET BACK?

FIP

ATTILAN.

LONG WAY FROM THE BOROUGHS.

CRAZY.

ROYAL FAMILY CASTLE.

UNKNOWN POWER
SURGE IDENTIFIED.
POWER TYPE: **UNKNOWN**
18 FEET NORTHWEST.

UNKNOWN POW
SURGE IDENTIFIE
POWER TYPE:**UNI**
14 FEET AHEAD

RRH!

SMASH

RRUGH!!

SMASH

CLINK

CRUMBLE

THE HELL?

UNKNOWN POWER SURGE IDENTIFIED. POWER TYPE: UNKNOWN. POWER LEVEL: DANGEROUS.

NO SEAMS.

@#$@$!

COME ON...

ALL THIS WAY...

RRAAGH!

TANG

COME ON!

COME ON!

ALL THIS WAY!!

FIP

SPING

SPING

SPING

COME ON!!!

PSSSSS

THERE YOU GO.

THERE YOU GO.

COME ON...

COME ON, BABY.

COME ON!!

OKAY.

WELL, MISTER ROBBINS, IT TOOK $1 BILLION AND MOST OF YOUR SANITY, BUT...

YOU WENT AND GOT YOURSELF AN INFINITY GEM.

YELLOW. YELLOW...

WHICH ONE IS THE YELLOW ONE?

OH, YEAH...

THAT'S RIGHT...

REALITY.

IS THAT THE PROBLEM, SIMON?

ARE YOU HAVING TROUBLE KEEPING YOURSELF TOGETHER?

YOU KNOW I CAN HELP YOU WITH THAT.

IF YOU'LL LET ME.

I'M FINE, TONY.

THEN WHAT IS YOUR GRIEVANCE WITH US, OLD FRIEND?

I THOUGHT I MADE MYSELF CLEAR, THOR.

I DON'T THINK THE AVENGERS ARE HELPING THE WORLD. IN FACT, I THINK--

COME ON, SIMON.

LET ME *FINISH!!*

I DON'T THINK YOU *ARE* HELPING ANYONE.

I TOLD STEVE ROGERS AND NOW I AM TELLING YOU--I THINK YOU ARE DOING WAY MORE HARM THAN GOOD AND I WANT YOU TO *STOP* IT.

IS *THAT* CLEAR?

I DON'T BELIEVE YOU BELIEVE THAT.

I KNOW YOU DON'T.

BUT THAT'S YOUR WAY, TONY.

YOU BELIEVE WHAT YOU WANT, NO MATTER--

WHEN YOU ATTACKED US THE OTHER DAY, JUST F.Y.I., YOU DESTROYED A TIME MACHINE THAT WE WERE USING TO REVERSE A--

IT'S ALWAYS SOMETHING.

*YOU ALMOST HELPED TO BREAK **THE WORLD**, SIMON.*

AND YET--

HERE WE ARE.

I THINK YOU'RE HURTING. I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS, BUT I THINK--

HOW DID YOU *FIND* ME?

YOU'RE A BEING MADE OF IONIC ENERGY.

YOU LEAVE A TRAIL LIKE A SNAIL.

I'LL HAVE TO WORK ON THAT.

WHAT HAPPENED, SIMON?

WHY CAN'T YOU BELIEVE THE WORDS I AM SAYING?

BECAUSE YOU WERE ONE OF THE GREAT AVENGERS OF *ALL TIME.*

YES.

SO IT BREAKS OUR HEART TO FIND YOU SO *OPPOSED* TO THAT WHICH YOU FOUGHT SO--

I SEE THE WORLD MORE CLEARLY NOW.

OKAY, LET'S, FOR ARGUMENT'S SAKE, SAY YOU DO--

DON'T *CONDESCEND* TO *ME!!*

LET'S SAY YOU DO.

WHAT *HAPPENED* THAT MADE YOU FEEL THIS WAY?

I OPENED MY EYES!

WE ARE NOT HERE TO DO BATTLE, FRIEND.

THEN ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS HEAR ME NOW.

SHUT DOWN THE AVENGERS.

STOP THE MADNESS BEFORE ANOTHER *ONE OF US DIES!!!*

DO IT FOR WANDA. DO IT FOR JANET. DO IT FOR SCOTT LANG, DO IT FOR THE DAMN JACK OF HEARTS.

BUT DO IT AND DO IT *NOW.*

SIMON?!

COME ON...

WE ARE WARRIORS. WAR HAS CASUALTIES.

EVERY ONE OF OUR BROTHERS DIED FOR A CAUSE. *EVERY ONE* KNEW THE PRICE.

IT'S THE WAY OF THE WORLD.

IF WE DO NOT FIGHT, WHO WILL?

I KNOW.

THERE HAS TO BE THOSE WHO WILL FIGHT FOR--

DON'T TELL ME, TELL HIM.

HE LEFT.

I MISS JANET.

AS DO I, BROTHER.

BAXTER BUILDING, NEW YORK CITY.
HOME OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR.

OKAY.
DO STAY ASLEEP, DOCTOR.
ALARMS, STAY OFF.

HEY, REED, I'VE BEEN MEANING TO TELL YOU, NOT FOR NOTHING, BUT YOU KNOW I'M GETTIN' PAID MORE ON THE NEW AVENGERS THAN I'M--

BEN GRIMM...

WHO THE HELL ARE--?

OH, COME--

SWEET PE--

WHAT THE @#$@?

BUILDING ALARMS, STAY OFF.

REED RICHARDS, STAY SLEEPING.

OKAY, DOCTOR, WHERE DO YOU KEEP ALL OF YOUR SECRETS?

A DOOR TO NOTHING.

I NEED THIS DOOR TO OPEN.

MY...

DID HE--WOW--
DID HE CREATE A
LITTLE UNIVERSE
TO PROTECT IT?

TO
HIDE
IT?

WOW.

IN REALITY...
IT SHOULD BE
IN MY HAND.

RED
ONE.

POWER.

WHERE THE HELL AM I NOW?

DESERT.

HOT.

OKAY.

REALITY GEM NEEDS MORE SPECIFIC COMMANDS.

YOU CAN'T JUST SAY: "GET ME THE HELL OUT OF THE BAXTER BUILDING."

YOU HAVE TO--TO *COAX* IT INTO DIRECTION.

OKAY, LEARNING CURVE. NO BIG DEAL.

JUST LIKE THE NORN STONES.

BOOM

JEEZ!!

WHAT THE HELL?

WHO THE HELL DO I LOOK LIKE?

A TEST!!

AVENGERS TOWER, NEW YORK CITY.

AVENGERS....

I'D REALLY LIKE YOU TO MEET SOMEONE SPECIAL.

THIS IS MY GIRLFRIEND.

ALIEN BOY HAS A *GIRLFRIEND?* WAY TO GO, KID.

any FRIEND TO OUR NEWEST AVENGER IS A FRIEND TO *ALL OF US.*

MAYBE SHE DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS AN ALIEN.

OOPS.

HE HAS A GIRLFRIEND? HOW DO *YOU* HAVE A GIRLFRIEND?

I'M AN ACTUAL *HUMAN* BEING LIVING ON THE PLANET EARTH AND I HAVEN'T BEEN ON A DATE IN *THREE YEARS!*

REALLY?

I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A PRUDENT IDEA TO PRESENT HER TO YOU AS I WILL BE LIVING HERE... AND SHE WILL BE JOINING ME ON OCCASION.

HER NAME IS ANNIE AND SHE GOES TO N.Y.U.

SHE IS A, AS YOU SAY, CIVILIAN. SHE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH OUR WORLD OF SUPER HEROES AND ALL THAT ENTAILS...

...

YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE HER, FOR SHE WAS VERY NERVOUS TO MEET YOU.

HI, I'M TONY STARK, ANY FRIEND OF NOH-VARR'S...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE INCREDIBLY ANTISOCIAL TENDENCIES OF THE GROUP...

IT'S A LITTLE OFF-PUTTING BUT IT'S PART OF WHAT MAKES THEM SUCH GOOD SUPER HEROES.

YOU DID KNOW NOH-VARR WAS AN ALIEN, RIGHT?

MASTER STARK!

YES, JARVIS?

I BELIEVE WE HAVE A SITUATION.

CHAPTER SIX

WHO THE HELL *IS THIS?!*

THE RED HULK.

NOH-VARR, YOU PROBABLY WANT TO GET YOUR GIRLFRIEND OUT OF HERE!

THERE'S A RED HULK?!

MAKE NO MOVE, VILE ONE!

OR I WILL SMITE YOU WITH THE POWER OF THE MIGHTY MJOLNIR!

HE WILL, TOO. I'VE SEEN IT.

WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM? WHO DID THIS TO YOU?

IN...FINITY...

JRJR
JUNSON
10
WHITE

AVENGERS 8

FUNTIME INC.
A STARK ENTERPRISES SUBSIDIARY.

COME ON...

ENERGY FLUCTUATION DETECTED.

DOCTOR STEPHEN STRANGE

IDENTITY: CONFIRMED

OCCUPATION: SORCERER

DOCTOR...

WHAT'S HAPPENED?

LET'S WAIT FOR THE OTHERS.

I THOUGHT WE WERE DONE MEETING LIKE THIS.

LET'S WAIT FOR THE OTHERS.

HUMANOID LIFE FORMS DETECTED IN THE RADIUS OF 100 FEET.

SCANNING...

PRINCE NAMOR
ALIAS: SUB-MARINER
IDENTITY: CONFIRMED
OCCUPATION: MONARCH
WHAT FITFUL EMERGENCY WOULD HAVE YOU SUMMON ME FROM THE DUTIES OF MY KINGDOM?
I LOVE WHEN YOU COME IN WITH A PRACTICED LINE.
WHY ARE WE HERE?
WE'RE WAITING FOR EVERYONE.
I TOLD YOU I WAS DONE WITH THIS!
SECRETS AND LIES.
SETTLE DOWN.
WE HAVE BIGGER FISH TO FRY THAN YOU AND YOUR SPECTACULAR EGO, NAMOR.
(NO OFFENSE ON THE FISH METAPHOR.)
CHARLES FRANCIS XAVIER
IDENTITY: CONFIRMED
OCCUPATION: MUTANT LEADER
GROUP AFFILIATION: X-MEN
WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN?
PSYCHIC DAMPENERS ACTIVATED!
STOP READING MY MIND, CHARLES, AND LET'S WAIT FOR EVERYONE.
MY APOLOGIES. HABIT.
REED RICHARDS
ALIAS: MISTER FANTASTIC
GROUP AFFILIATION: FANTASTIC FOUR
OCCUPATION: SCIENTIST, ADVENTURER
IDENTITY: CONFIRMED
GENTLEMEN, I HAVE SOMETHING OF DIRE IMPORTANCE TO--
YOU DO?
I THOUGHT THAT'S WHY YOU CALLED US TOGETHER.
NO. I BROUGHT US TOGETHER FOR MY THING.
WAIT, WHAT IS YOUR THING?
WE SHOULD WAIT--
ENERGY FLUCTUATION.

UNNATURAL TELEPORTATION DETECTED.

MEDUSA
ALIAS: NONE
GROUP AFFILIATION: QUEEN OF THE INHUMANS

WHAT *IS* THIS?

GRR.

OCCUPATION: MONARCH, REVOLUTIONARY
IDENTITY: CONFIRMED

LOCKJAW
ALIAS: NONE
GROUP AFFILIATION: INHUMANS
OCCUPATION: TELEPORTER, TRANSPORT FOR INHUMAN ROYAL FAMILY
IDENTITY: CONFIRMED

WHAT IS *SHE* DOING HERE?

YOU SIGNALED FOR MY HUSBAND.

YES! YOUR *HUSBAND!* THE *KING* OF THE INHUMANS!

WHAT ARE *YOU* DOING HERE?

MY HUSBAND IS DEAD.

THAT-- THAT'S *TERRIBLE* NEWS.

I HADN'T HEARD.

OH MY...

I KNOW.

I AM *SO* SORRY.

HE LOVED YOU.

HOW OFTEN WOULD YOU MEN MEET IN SECRET LIKE THIS?

WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THAT RIGHT NOW, MEDUSA.

PLEASE, DO YOU KNOW--DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR HUSBAND HAD KEPT A--A GEM?

A JEWEL?

WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

THE INFINITY GEMS.

YOU *DO* KNOW.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

I THINK-- I THINK SOMEONE MAY HAVE STOLEN BLACK BOLT'S GEM.

NO.

NO?

NO.

HE STOLE *MINE.*

WHEN DID THIS *HAPPEN?*

LAST NIGHT. JUST LAST NIGHT.

WHICH ONE DID YOU HAVE?

RED. POWER.

YOU HAD RED.

WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?

THIS GROUP... WE GATHERED IN SECRET.

ALL OF US, INCLUDING YOUR HUSBAND, TO TRY AND KEEP THE MADNESS OF THE WORLD UNDER CONTROL.
AND WHY WOULD MY HUSBAND KEEP THIS FROM ME?
WE MADE A PACT.
(MEN.)
AND WHAT HAVE YOU DONE, EXACTLY, THAT HAS COME BACK TO HAUNT YOU SO BADLY?
WE TOOK THE INFINITY GEMS OUT OF CIRCULATION.
INFINITY GEMS.
ITEMS OF INCREDIBLE POWER OVER TIME AND SPACE.
WHEN THE GEMS ARE GATHERED... THEY--THEY HOLD THE OWNER IN COMPLETE CONTROL OF EVERYTHING.
EVERYTHING.
WE EACH TOOK ONE.
FOR SAFEKEEPING.
PLEDGING NEVER TO USE THEM OURSELVES.
YOU *TOOK* THEM?
FOR SAFEKEEPING.
BECAUSE EVERY TIME SOMEONE TRIED TO PUT THEM TOGETHER--
--TO CREATE THE INFINITY GAUNTLET--
--EARTH, OUR EXISTENCE, HELD ON BY A THREAD.
WE SIMPLY TOOK THAT OPTION OFF THE TABLE.
UNTIL NOW.
FINE...
SO WHO IS TRYING TO STEAL THE GEMS NOW?
AND HOW WOULD THEY EVEN KNOW WE HAD THEM?
HOW WOULD THEY KNOW WHERE THEY WERE?

LISTEN TO ME...
LAST NIGHT...
A MAN BROKE INTO THE BAXTER BUILDING.
NO ALARM WENT OFF AND I WAS NOT WOKEN.
NO ALARM?
DID YOU GET HIM ON SECURITY CAMERA?
NO.
NO?
BUT BEN GRIMM RAN INTO HIM ACCIDENTALLY.
THE MAN TURNED THE FLOOR UNDER BEN'S FEET TO WATER... YES, WATER, SENDING HIM DOWN 34 FLOORS TO THE MEZZANINE.
BY THE TIME BEN GOT BACK UP TO THE LAB...HE WAS GONE.
MY VAULT WAS OPEN AND THE GEM GONE.
YOU KEPT IT IN A *SAFE?*
I KEPT IT IN A MICRO-UNIVERSE OF MY OWN CREATION, HIDDEN IN A POCKET DIMENSION I INVENTED WITH ONLY ONE WAY IN OR OUT.
A DOOR WITH NO LOCKS AND NO COMBINATION.
A DOOR THAT CAN ONLY BE OPENED BY THE ACTIVATION OF MY OWN UNIQUE BRAINWAVES.
IN OTHER WORDS, AN IMPOSSIBILITY.
AND YET...
BUT YOU DIDN'T KNOW THIS?
THAT'S NOT WHY YOU CALLED US HERE.
NO.
THEN WHY DID YOU CALL US?
DO ALL OF YOU KNOW WHO THE RED HULK IS?

AVENGERS TOWER, EARLIER.

WHO--?!

THE RED HULK.

HE'S ABOUT AS TOUGH A CUSTOMER AS *I'VE* EVER RUN INTO.

TOUGHER THAN THE *GREEN* HULK?

YES.

HEY, YOU, WAKEY-WAKEY... WHO DID THIS TO YOU?

AND ARE THEY RIGHT BEHIND YOU?

NO. NO.
I COME ALONE.
SORRY ABOUT THE CRASH LANDING.
REALLY.
I THOUGHT I COULD MAKE IT.
BUT I'M NOT...IN THE BEST OF SHAPE.
AND YOU HAVE A REDDISH RASH...*ALL OVER*
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I JUST GOT MY ASS HANDED TO ME BY A GUY.
HOLDING A--A JEWEL.
A RED JEWEL.
WHERE WAS THIS?
DEATH VALLEY.
JUST A GUY?
WELL, OBVIOUSLY, A LOT MORE THAN *THAT.*
DID YOU HAPPEN TO CATCH HIS NAME?
WHY DID YOU COME *HERE?*
ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU GUYS DO?
FIGHT THAT FIGHT NO SINGLE ONE OF YOU CAN FIGHT?
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WE DO...

YOU DID THE RIGHT THING BY COMING HERE.

NEXT TIME USE THE @#$@$ DOOR.

WELL, YES...

CAN I GET YOU ANYTHING, MASTER STEVEN?

I'M FINE, JARVIS.

GOOD TO SEE YOU.

AND YOU AS WELL, SIR.

TELL US EVERYTHING YOU KNOW.

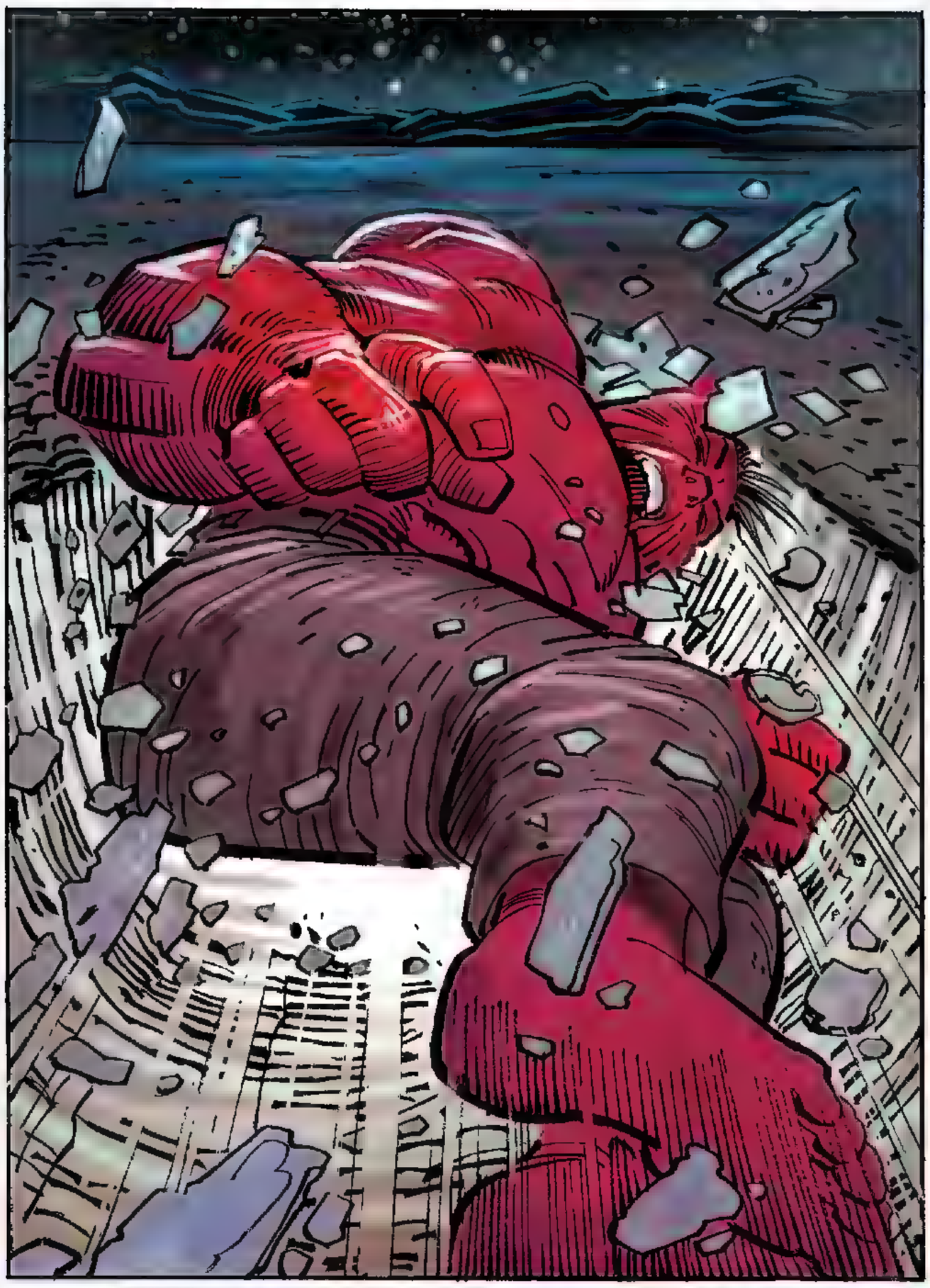
SPARE NO DETAIL.

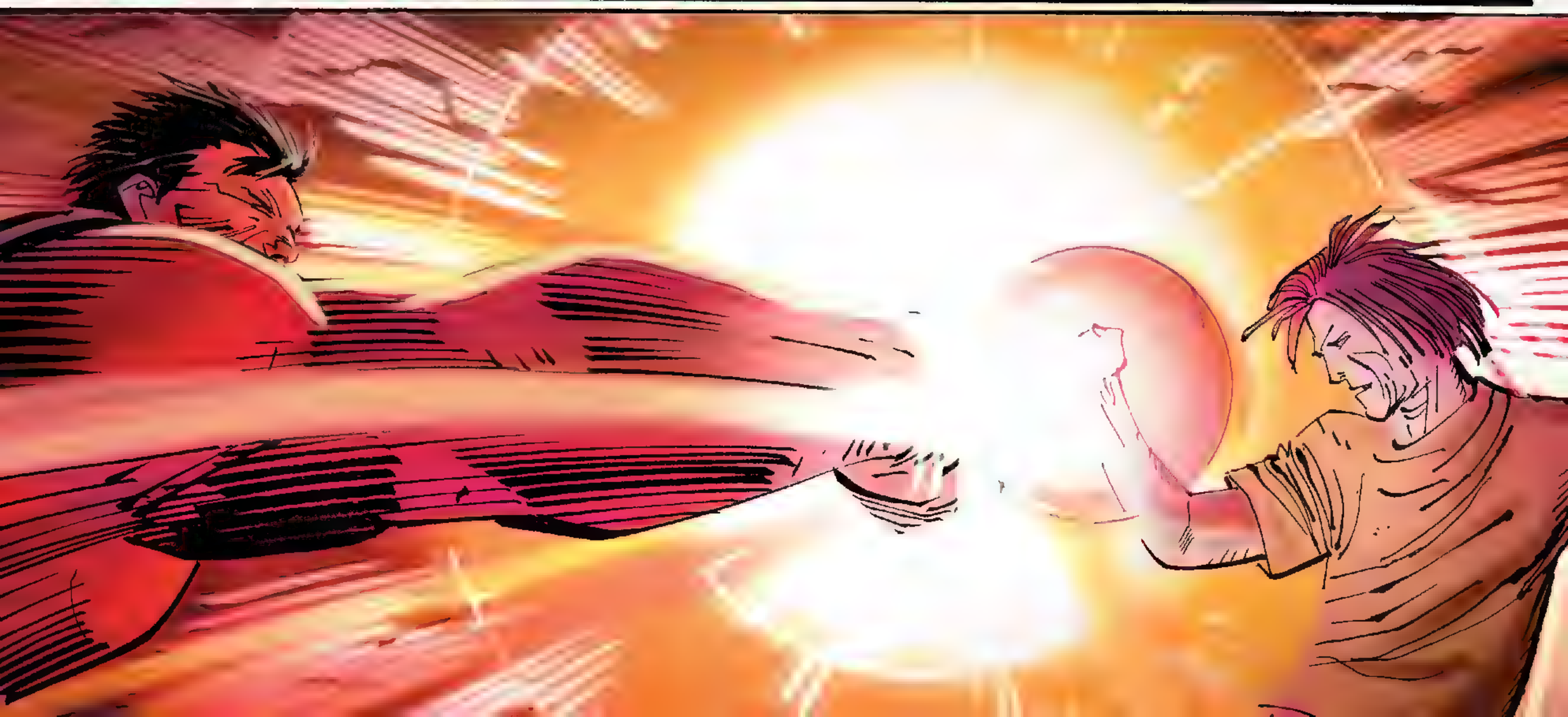
HE SAID HE'S BEEN LIVING IN THE DEATH VALLEY AREA, DOING OPS FOR STEVE ROGERS AND TRYING TO KEEP TO HIMSELF...

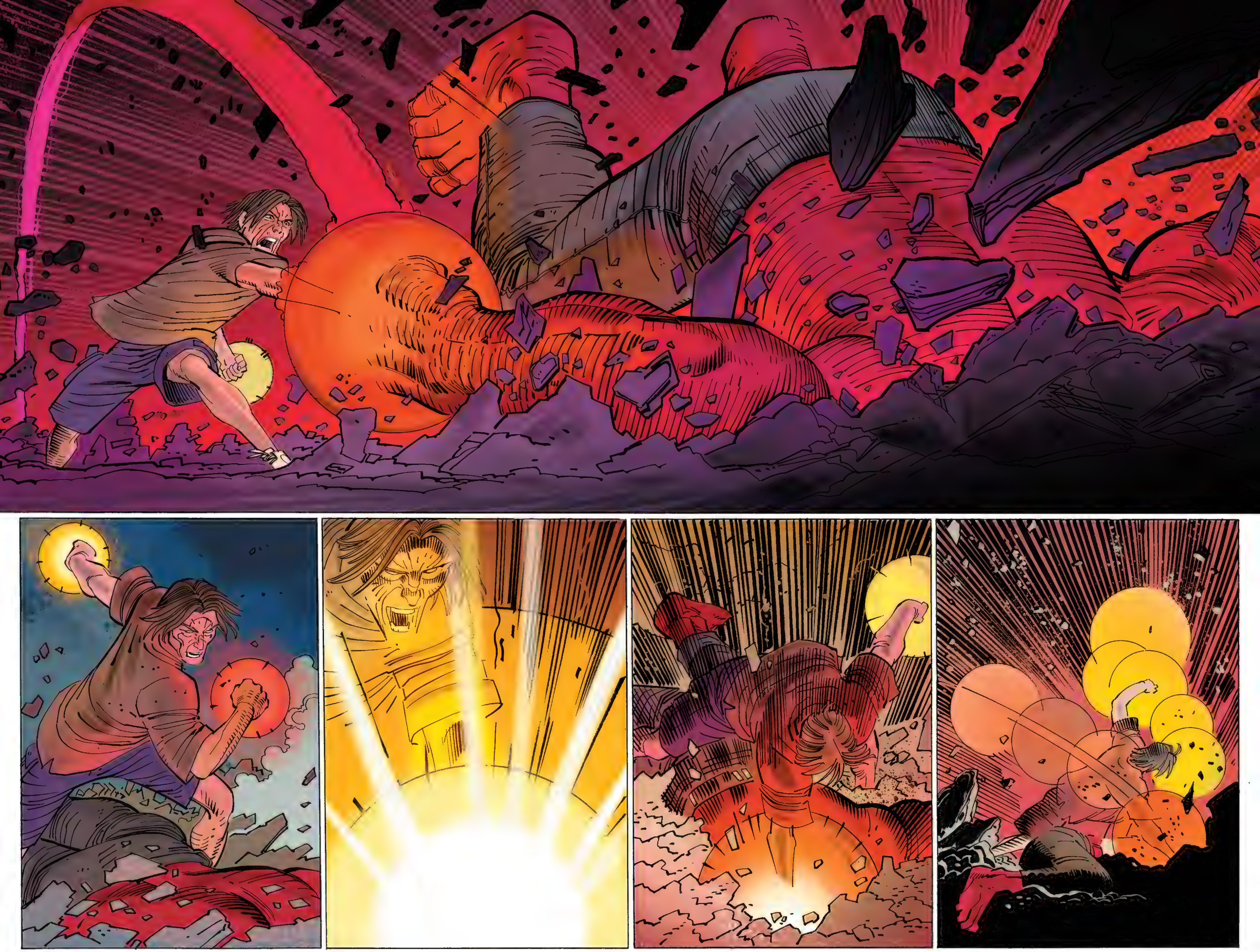
HE SAID HE SAW AN UNNATURAL LIGHT.

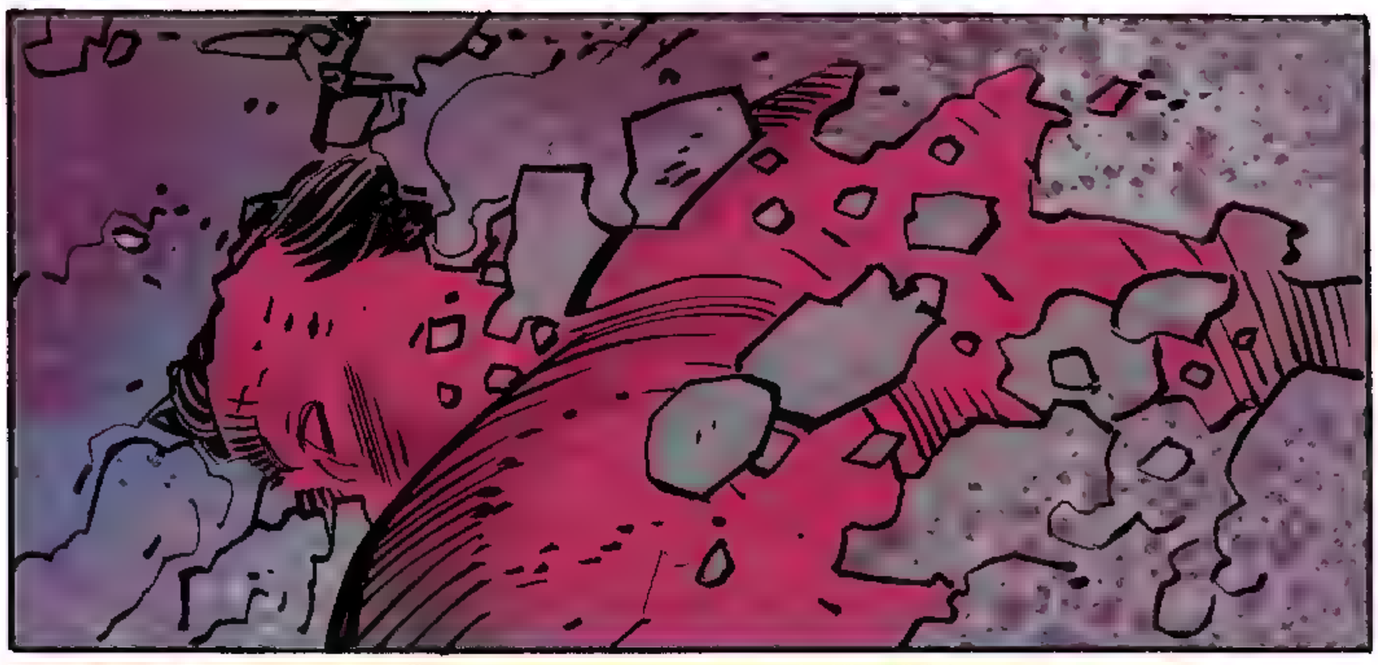
HE NOW THINKS IT WAS SOME SORT OF TELEPORTATION.

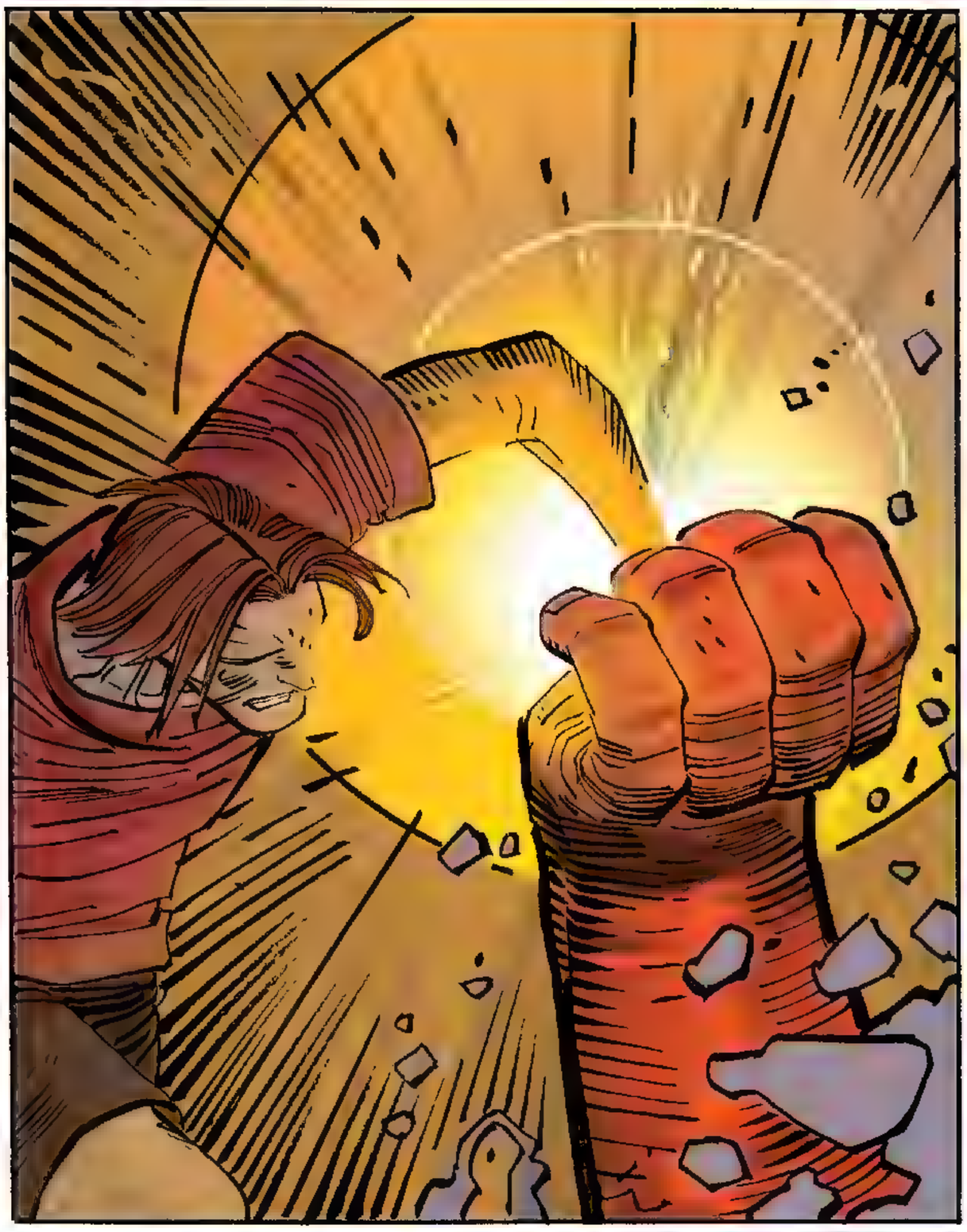
THE RED HULK SAID HE APPROACHED THE GUY, BUT--

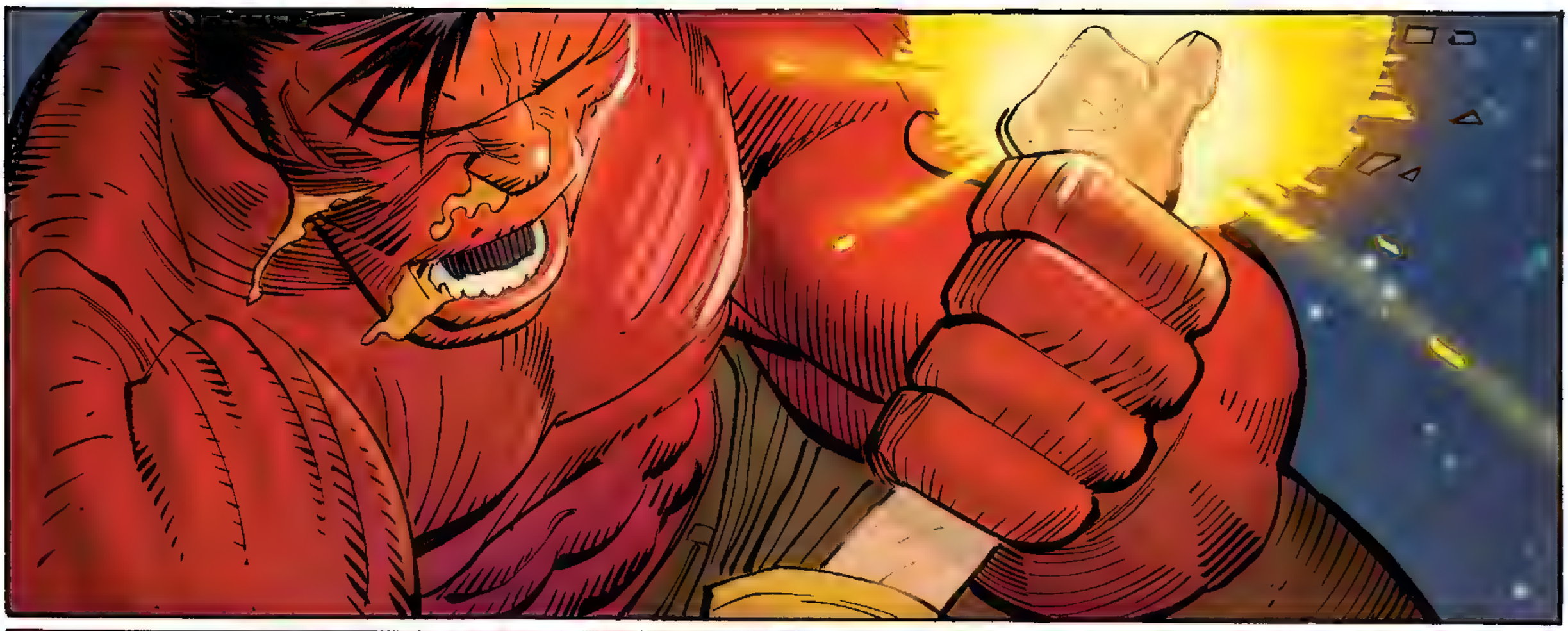












"THE RED HULK SAID WHEN HE LOOKED UP...

"...THE MAN WITH THE GEM WAS GONE."

DID HE HAVE ONE GEM OR TWO?

HE SAID ONE THAT HE THOUGHT WENT FROM RED TO YELLOW.

DO THEY *DO* THAT?

NO.

YELLOW IS...

REALITY.

THAT WOULD EXPLAIN THE WATER AND THE BREAK-IN...

I THINK SO TOO.

HE SAID:

I *KNOW* WHEN SOMEONE KNOWS HOW TO FIGHT. THIS GUY *DIDN'T* KNOW HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT.

HE HAD POWER BUT NO MOVES.

A GUY WITH A NICE CAR AND NO LICENSE TO DRIVE.

BUT THERE'S A MYSTERY GUY OUT THERE WITH THE POWER TO KNOCK *ME* OUT...

I FIGURED YOU GUYS NEEDED TO KNOW.

RED POWER JEWEL.

WE SHOULD TALK TO DOCTOR STRANGE.

FIRST THING THAT COMES UP IN THE SECURE SECRET AVENGERS DATA BASE IS ***THE INFINITY GEMS.***

WELL, AIN'T ***THAT*** ALL WE NEED?

WHAT ARE THE INFINITY GEMS?

LET ME...

...GO CHECK MY FILES...

SHAARROOOM

CAN'T HE CHECK HIS FILES FROM HERE?

UH, YEAH.

TRACK HIM.

UM, I DON'T KNOW IF I FEEL COMFORTABLE...

MARIA...

I GAVE AN ORDER.

YES, SIR.

I CHECKED TO MAKE SURE MY GEM WAS SAFE AND THEN I CALLED YOU TOGETHER.

BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT WE SAID WE WOULD DO.

EVEN AFTER ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH, I THOUGHT THIS WAS--

WHO HAD YELLOW?

BLACK BOLT.

NOT TO BE CRASS, LADY MEDUSA...

BUT WHERE, EXACTLY, WAS YOUR HUSBAND LAID TO REST?

I AM... COMPLETELY UNCOMFORTABLE GOING OVER THE DETAILS OF MY HUSBAND'S DEMISE WITH YOU.

BLACK BOLT WOULD NEVER HAVE TAKEN THE GEM OFF OF EARTH.

I DO BELIEVE YOU ARE RIGHT.

CAN YOU TAKE US TO WHERE ATTILAN *USED* TO BE?

LOCKJAW.

WAIT, WHERE ARE WE--

--GOING?
THE FORMER HOME OF OUR CITY OF ATTILAN.
THE HIMALAYAS?
YES.
FANTASTIC.
THREE BODIES DETECTED 442 FEET NORTHWEST.
WE GOT SOME BODIES.
GUNSHOT WOUNDS.
BUT NOT CALIBER BULLETS.
THIS IS SOMETHING ELSE.
WE IMAGINE THAT THE KILLER THEN PROCEEDED HERE TO THE CITY GROUNDS.
LET ME SEE IF I CAN CAST A HALO SPELL...
GARTEEK'S HALO SPELL OF THE PREVIOUS. BOOK OF VISHANTI, PAGE 345.
THE CATACOMBS.
NAMOR...
...YOU GO FIRST.

THERE ARE NO MIND WAVES DOWN HERE. ANIMAL, HUMAN OR INHUMAN...

I KNOW.

I WAS MAKING A BAD JOKE.

(I CAN'T REMEMBER YOU MAKING ANY OTHER KIND.)

THIS IS WHERE THE ROYAL FAMILY WOULD JAIL ITS INSURGENTS.

THIS WAY.

WELL...

WE HAVE ANOTHER CRIME SCENE.

SCANNING...

MMRRFF...

THIS IS THE MURDER WEAPON.

ION CHARGE PULSE TECHNOLOGY. VERY NEW.

IT'S A HYDRA WEAPON.

HYDRA IS BEHIND THIS?!

NOT NECESSARILY. SOMEONE WITH A HYDRA **WEAPON.**

AND THEN THERE'S THIS...

THIS IS A.I.M. TECHNOLOGY. THIS IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL ENERGY SOURCE SCANNER.

A SUPER-HIGH-TECH PIECE OF EQUIPMENT-- LIKE--LIKE THE THING YOU USE TO LOOK FOR METAL ON THE BEACH.

WHICH MEANS?

WHO MAKES THEM? WHERE CAN YOU GET ONE?

YOU **CAN'T** BUY ONE.

YOU KNOW WHAT THE PARTS ALONE ON SOMETHING LIKE THIS COSTS?

NO.

FROM THE CASING, I'D SAY THIS WAS CUSTOM-MADE.

A.I.M. TECH **AND** HYDRA TECH.

OUR MURDERER WAS WELL FUNDED.
WELL CONNECTED.
AND I AM LUCKY BEN FOUND HIM WHEN HE DID. I COULD HAVE BEEN KILLED.
YES.
WHAT ABOUT FINGER-PRINTS?
THERE'S NOTHING ELSE BUT A CANTEEN, A PROTEIN ENERGY BAR AND A THICK SWEATER.
AND THAT LARGE RED EGG.
THERE WAS ONE OF MY PEOPLE WHO MADE CASES LIKE THIS. HARD, BEAUTIFUL SHELLS.
IT WAS HIS GIFT.
HIS NAME WAS ERTZIA.
THE GEM WAS IN THE CASE.
CAN WE TALK TO THIS ERTZIA?
HE DIED.
MMRRFF...
BLACK BOLT HAD IT ENCASED AND HID IT HERE IN THE CATACOMBS.
BUT LEFT IT BEHIND?
HARD CHOICES WERE BEING MADE WHEN WE LEFT THIS PLANET.
EVEN SO, HE SHOULD HAVE TOLD ONE OF US.
YOU'RE RATHER JUDGMENTAL FOR A MUTANT WHO HAS MADE SO MANY, MANY MISTAKES.
ROWLLFF!!
OH NO...
WHAT IS IT?
I THINK... WE ARE NEEDED ABOVE.

TONY...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

Brandon Peterson

RYKER'S ISLAND MAXIMUM-SECURITY PENITENTIARY.
ONE MONTH AGO.

"I KNOW THERE'S NO REASON FOR YOU TO BELIEVE ME, BUT...

"I HAVE A LOT OF MONEY.

"A *LOT* OF MONEY.

THE RAFT.
RYKER'S MAXIMUM-MAXIMUM SECURITY INSTALLATION.

"I HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO RUN A SMALL COUNTRY.

"I HEARD THE THINGS YOU'VE BEEN SAYING TO THE OTHER GUARDS...

"I KNOW YOU'RE HAVING SOME PROBLEMS AT HOME.

"I HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO FIX THAT."

I HAVE SOMETHING YOU NEED AND YOU HAVE SOMETHING I NEED.

IT'S A FAIR TRADE.

YOU GET ME OUT OF HERE AND I CHANGE YOUR LIFE IN EVERY CONCEIVABLE WAY.

SUBLEVEL 4

17

THINK OF YOUR DAUGHTER. THINK OF YOUR WIFE...

CUT IT OUT, ROBBINS.

I MEAN IT. I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE IN PRISON HERE, YOU ARE TOO WHETHER YOU--

ALL THE MONEY YOU GOT...WHY DON'T YOU HIRE SOME BIG POWERS GUY TO BREAK YOU OUT OF HERE?

THAT'S A GOOD IDEA. CAN I BORROW YOUR PHONE?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT NO HOW.

WHY'S THAT?

THEY'RE TRANSFERRING YOU THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.

ARE YOU SERIOUS?

O'BRIEN

THEY ARE PUTTING YOU IN *REGULAR* OL' HARD-CORE SCUMBAG PRISON.

WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN?

SEEING AS YOU DON'T HAVE ANY REAL 'THE HOOD' POWERS NO MORE, THEY NEED THIS EXPENSIVE HIGH-END SECURITY FOR SOME ACTUAL SUPER-POWERED CRIMINAL.

O'BRIEN

17

O'BRIEN

THERE'RE FOURTEEN AVENGERS TEAMS NOW.

THEY'RE TAKING DOWN ONE OF YOU LOSERS EVERY OTHER HOUR.

WE NEED THE ROOM.

THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW?

YOU GET TO SEE SUN.

CONGRATULATIONS.

HOW PROUD YOU MUST BE.

I ASKED YOU A DIRECT QUESTION, IRON MAN. WHAT ARE YOU *DOING* HERE?

WHAT ARE THEY *ALL* DOING TOGETHER?

REALLY.

I'D RATHER HAVE THIS CONVERSATION PRIVATELY, STEVE.

THIS IS NOT THE PLACE FOR THIS, ROGERS.

CAN WE PLEASE TALK PRIVATELY?

ATTILAN CITY GROUNDS. NOW.

TELL ME THIS HASN'T BEEN GOING ON THE ENTIRE TIME I'VE BEEN IN CHARGE.

TONY.

YOU NEED TO CALM DOWN--

*HOW DID YOU EVEN **FIND US** OUT HERE?*

TONY, ***STOP!*** JUST STOP IT.

I KNOW WHEN YOU'RE STALLING SO YOU CAN COOK UP A LIE TO COVER YOURSELF.

ARE YOU BIG BRAINS GETTING TOGETHER BEHIND ***MY BACK?!***

TELL ME THE TRUTH.

ARE YOU REALLY ***THAT*** PETTY?

ARE YOU REALLY THAT ***ANGRY*** THAT I'M IN CHARGE NOW INSTEAD OF YOU?

WE'VE BEEN GETTING TOGETHER LIKE THIS SINCE... THE END OF THE KREE/SKRULL WAR.

IS THE CAT OUT OF THE BAG, CHARLES?

YES, IT IS, DOCTOR STRANGE.

IT IS VERY MUCH OUT.

RYKER'S ISLAND MAXIMUM SECURITY PENITENTIARY.
THREE WEEKS AGO.

7726371
NYDOC

O.O.C

WHO'S THAT GUY?

OH, HELL, MR. ROBBINS, YOU DON'T WANT A PART OF THAT.

7888561
NYDOC

WHO IS HE? WHY IS HE SITTING ALONE?

I DON'T KNOW THE WHOLE STORY BECAUSE I WASN'T DERE.
BUT DAT DERE'S A DANGEROUS GUY.
THAT GUY?
HE'S A MUTANT.
AND HE KILLS PEOPLE.
A MUTANT KILLER.
THAT GUY KILLED SOMEBODY RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE YARD.
THAT GUY RIGHT THERE?
D.O.C.
772637
NYDOC
MADE HIM CHOKE ON HIS OWN TONGUE OR SOMETHING.
WHY ISN'T HE IN THE BIG BOY PRISON?
I DON'T KNOW. BECAUSE HE'S 150 YEARS OLD?

I WONDER WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT?

CAPTAIN AMERICA AND IRON MAN REALLY DO NOT GET ALONG, DO THEY?

THEY *USED* TO.

THEY ARE THE BACKBONE OF THE AVENGERS. NOBLE WARRIORS THROUGH AND THROUGH.

WELL, THOR, THEY ARE ABOUT TO RIP EACH OTHER'S HEADS OFF.

DOESN'T *LOOK* LIKE IT.

LET THEM WORK IT OUT, HENRY. THOSE TWO ARE BLOOD BROTHERS.

SOMEONE SHOULD DO SOMETHING.

THEY LOVE EACH OTHER. THEY JUST HAVE SOME STUFF TO WORK OUT.

IT WAS NEVER A LIE I WAS COMFORTABLE WITH.

WE KNEW THIS DAY WOULD COME, GENTLEMEN...

TELL THEM THE TRUTH, XAVIER. THEY ARE HONORED HEROES THAT DESERVE YOUR RESPECT.

SOME TIME AGO, THE FOUR OF US AND KING BLACK BOLT, GOD REST HIS SOUL, DECIDED TO GET TOGETHER AND DO WHAT WE COULD TO ***PROACTIVELY*** PREVENT CATASTROPHES FROM HAPPENING.

WE THOUGHT WE EACH REPRESENTED A UNIQUE INTEREST IN HUMANITY AND HAD THE OBLIGATION TO SHARE CERTAIN INFORMATION WITH EACH OTHER...

TO HELP EACH OTHER AND THE WORLD WHENEVER WE COULD.

SO, OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS WE HAVE DONE WHAT WE COULD...

AND WE DID SO IN SECRET BECAUSE THESE ARE VERY DIFFICULT TIMES.

THIS WAS KEPT FROM MOST OF YOU...ONLY TO *PROTECT* YOU.

IT WAS KEPT FROM US BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T *TRUST* US.

TRUST HAD TO BE UNANIMOUS.

NOBODY KNEW ABOUT THIS BUT *YOU* GUYS?

I'M SORRY TO HAVE TO LET YOU KNOW LIKE THIS, OLD FRIEND.

NOT EVEN SUZIE?

NO, NOT EVEN MY WIFE.

YOU WERE GETTING TOGETHER WITH NAMOR BEHIND *HER* BACK?

SHE'S GOING TO KILL ME.

IF YOU'RE LUCKY.

I'M SORRY, LUKE.

THIS HAPPENED WELL BEFORE THE NEW AVENGERS CAME TOGETHER.

WE SAID NO SECRETS.

THESE WERE NOT MY SECRETS TO REVEAL.

NO SECRETS MEANS NO SECRETS.

HOW DO YOU THINK CAP'S TAKING IT?

CONSIDERING THAT I KNOW FOR A FACT THAT IT FLIES IN THE FACE OF EVERYTHING HE HOLDS DEAR...

SO, BAD THEN?

I THINK WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO FIND A NEW PLACE FOR THE AVENGERS TO LIVE.

I WILL STEADY THIS.

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU, TONY.
IT ISN'T PERSONAL, STEVE.
I'M IN CHARGE OF THE SECURITY OF THE FREE WORLD.
SOMETHING LIKE THIS, YOU TELL ME.
I'M SORRY YOUR FEELINGS ARE HURT.
MY FEELINGS?!
YOU THINK THIS IS ABOUT MY FEELINGS?
THIS PART, HERE, YES.
THE EGO ON YOU! THE ASTRONOMICAL EGO.
I TOLD YOU THAT CONGRESS WANTED TO HOLD YOU ACCOUNTABLE FOR ALL OF NORMAN OSBORN'S ACTIONS!
I TOLD YOU THAT I CONVINCED THEM NOT TO GO FORWARD...
AND YOU TOLD ME THAT YOU WOULD BEHAVE. THAT YOU WOULD BE A MODEL AVENGER.
AND SO YOU JUST DECIDE THAT YOU SHOULD HAVE A SECRET GROUP WITH A SECRET AGENDA.
AND YOU DECIDED TO BE CAPTAIN AMERICA!
LET'S NOT START PULLING AT THAT STRING, THE ENTIRETY OF OUR WORLD WILL UNRAVEL.
I'M NOT SAYING YOU'RE DOING THIS CONSCIOUSLY, BUT THE FACT THAT YOU WOULD SNEAK BEHIND MY BACK AND TAKE MATTERS OF WORLD SECURITY INTO YOUR OWN HANDS...
MATTERS LIKE THIS THAT ARE SO INSANELY IMPORTANT AND DANGEROUS IS SO, SO, SO DISAPPOINTING.
THIS HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR MANY YEARS.
THIS WAS GOING ON WHEN NICK FURY WAS IN CHARGE, WHILE I WAS IN CHARGE, AND NOW.
I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENED THEN, I CARE WHAT HAPPENS TODAY!
AND TODAY YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT SOMEONE OUT THERE NOT ONLY DISCOVERED A SECRET THAT YOU THOUGHT WAS THE MOST WELL-KEPT SECRET IN THE WORLD...
THIS SECRET HELD ONLY BY THIS SMALL GROUP FOR ALL THESE YEARS.
THIS MAN NOT ONLY DISCOVERED THAT YOU WERE HIDING THE INFINITY GEMS, BUT ALREADY HAS HIS HANDS ON TWO OF THEM?!
YES.
HOW, TONY, HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

RYKER'S ISLAND MAXIMUM SECURITY PENITENTIARY.
TWO WEEKS AGO.
HEY...
OH. HELLO...
WHAT ARE YOU IN FOR?
I... MURDERED A MAN.
DID HE HAVE IT COMING?
I DON'T KNOW.
I'M PARKER ROBBINS.
HELLO. I AM ERTZIA.
ERTZIA? WHAT IS THAT? BULGARIAN?
NOT BULGARIAN. I AM FROM... FAR AWAY.

DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?
NO.
YOU NEVER HEARD OF ME?
NO.
I SAID... I AM FROM ANOTHER PLACE.
MUTANT?
NO.
WHERE ARE YOU FROM?
IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME.
O.O.C.
IT'S OKAY...
WE GOT ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD, MUTANT.

NOW.

BROTHERS... WE NEED TO DEAL WITH THE TASK AT HAND.

YOU'RE RIGHT, THOR.

YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT.

WE *DO* THIS, BUT AFTER THAT, YOU'RE *OUT*.

YOU'RE DONE.

AND IF SOMETHING HAPPENS HERE THAT YOU HAVE TO ACCOUNT FOR... YOU'RE GOING TO.

NO MORE FAVORS.

NO MORE SPECIAL TREATMENT.

YOU PAY FOR YOUR SINS, TONY.

LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.

PROVE HIM WRONG.

IS EVERYTHING OKAY?

NO.

OKAY... INFINITY GEMS.

HOW MANY MORE ARE THERE?

SIX IN TOTAL.

SOUL, TIME, SPACE, MIND, REALITY, POWER... HE ALREADY HAS POWER AND REALITY.

WHOEVER THIS IS, AS HE ACQUIRES THEM, YOU SHOULD KNOW, THE GEMS MAY START TO REACH OUT TO EACH OTHER.

REACH OUT?

MAKING IT EASIER FOR HIM TO FIND THEM.

THEY REACH OUT?

UNBELIEVABLE.

MY GEM WAS TAKEN, AS WAS BLACK BOLT'S.

BLACK BOLT WAS IN ON THIS TOO?

ALL OF THIS IS A SURPRISE TO ME AS WELL, CAPTAIN.

SO...

WHICH ONE OF YOU TALKED?

WE TOLD NO ONE.

HOW *DARE* YOU!

MY HUSBAND TOLD NO ONE.

NOT EVEN ME.

SOMEONE SAID SOMETHING TO SOMEONE, HAIR.

MY FRIEND LOGAN HAS A POWER SET THAT MAKES HIM A VERY ACUTE LIE DETECTOR.

HE'S JUST TRYING TO SEE WHICH ONE OF YOU REACTS TO THE ACCUSATION.

ANYTHING?

NO.

DAMN.

AS SOMEONE WHO CAN READ MINDS, LET ME ADD THAT OBVIOUSLY WE HAVE TO CONSIDER THAT THE INFORMATION WAS...*STOLEN* FROM AT LEAST ONE US.

NO ONE HERE SAID ANYTHING TO ANYONE.

A PACT WAS MADE.

WE ALL UNDERSTOOD THE COST.

RYKER'S ISLAND MAXIMUM SECURITY PENITENTIARY.
ONE WEEK AGO.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

IT IS NOT MY DAY OF BIRTH.

SURE IT IS, ERTZIA.

7888561 NYDOC

YOU GOT A PRESENT RIGHT THERE.

YOU SAID YOU MISSED YOURS, SO...

HOW DID YOU MAKE THIS HAPPEN?

I TOLD YOU, I'M A GOOD GUY TO KNOW.

WORD.

YOU SHOW ME KINDNESS LIKE NO OTHER.

SEE YOU AT CHOW.

THEY CALL MY PEOPLE...THE INHUMANS.

D.O.C.

TAKE OFF.

WHAT'S A--?

7726371 NYDOC

GO.

YOU'RE ONE OF THE INHUMANS?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING SO FAR FROM HOME?

NOW.

WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

WE HAVE TO PROTECT THE OTHER GEMS AT ALL COST.

NOTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT.

NOTHING.

TEAMS.

I HAVE SOME IDEAS IN THIS AREA.

YES.

REALLY?

YOU HAVE AN IDEA ABOUT HOW TO FIGHT SOMEONE WITH POWER OVER REALITY?

WE BEAT HIM TO THE OTHER GEMS AND THEN WE USE THE GEMS OURSELVES.

WE USE THEM TO BEAT THE HOLY HELL OUT OF THIS GUY.

I DON'T THINK YOU'RE QUITE AWARE OF THE LEVEL OF POWER WE ARE TALKING ABOUT.

COSTLY POWER...

I AM SURE ANY OF US ARE WILLING TO LISTEN TO ANOTHER SUGGESTION.

BUT I'VE COME FACE TO FACE WITH HIM. HE'S ALREADY STRONGER THAN ME.

WHICH MEANS HE'S ALREADY STRONGER THAN EVERYONE HERE.

SHORT OF DROPPING A WARHEAD ON HIM AND HOPING FOR THE BEST...

WHICH NO ONE IS SUGGESTING...

THE OTHER GEMS CAN FIGHT HIM.

I LIKE THIS.

WHAT OTHER CHANCE DO WE HAVE?

UNLESS WHOEVER HE IS HAS ALREADY GOT THEM.

THEN WE'RE SCREWED.

WELL, I DON'T WANT TO SOUND LIKE, WELL, YOU KNOW, ME...

BUT...

I BELIEVE THAT WITH GREAT POWER COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY...

WE'RE BETTER THAN WHOEVER THIS DUDE IS BECAUSE WE CHOOSE ***NOT*** TO USE POWER WE CAN'T CONTROL AND BARELY UNDERSTAND.

WE ***KNOW*** IT HAS A COST.

WE KNOW THERE'S A ***PRICE.***

ONE WOULD ARGUE WE'RE PAST THAT KIND OF TALK...

LOFTY PRINCIPLES ARE PRETTY USELESS IF NO ONE'S AROUND TO SEE YOU LIVE BY 'EM.

BUT YOU'RE RIGHT, SPIDER-MAN.

RIGHT ON THE MONEY.

WE DIDN'T START THIS, BUT WE HAVE TO END IT.

WE GET THE GEMS AND WE ONLY USE THEM IF WE HAVE TO.

WE WILL.

AND WE PUT THEM BACK WHERE WE FOUND THEM WHEN WE'RE DONE.

SO... GENTLEMEN.

WHERE ARE THEY?

RYKER'S ISLAND MAXIMUM SECURITY PENITENTIARY.
ONE WEEK AGO.

I WAS AN EMISSARY OF OUR KING, BLACK BOLT.

I READ ABOUT HIM ONLINE. THE FANTASTIC FOUR AND ALL OF THAT...

I WAS A TRUSTED ADVISOR TO THE THRONE BEFORE HE LEFT THIS EARTH.

MAYBE HIS MOST TRUSTED.

WHERE'D HE GO?

MY PEOPLE LEFT THIS PLANET.

SEEKING MORE THAN WHAT THEY COULD FIND HERE.

THAT I CAN UNDERSTAND.

WHY DID *YOU* STAY BEHIND?

I AM OLD.

I HAVE NOT HEARD FROM ANOTHER INHUMAN IN A LONG TIME.

I FEAR MY PEOPLE HAVE FALLEN. I FEAR THEY MET THEIR FATES.

TELL ME MORE ABOUT THIS MIST.

THE TERRIGEN MISTS GIVE THE INHUMANS THEIR UNIQUENESS.

BUT THE MISTS ARE NO LONGER HERE ON EARTH...

CAN YOU MAKE NEW MISTS?

NO.

WHAT IS *YOUR* UNIQUENESS?

HUH.
WHAT IS IT MADE OUT OF?
NOTHING YOU'D KNOW OF.
WHAT DO YOU DO WITH IT?
I PROTECTED MY KING'S SECRETS FROM THE WORLD.
WHAT KIND OF SECRETS?
HEY, ROBBINS...
YEAH...?
YOU MEANT WHAT YOU SAID?
WHAT PART?
DON'T BE SMART.
HOW MUCH MONEY ARE WE TALKING?
I GET YOU OUT--HOW MUCH MONEY ARE WE TALKING?
HOW MUCH WILL IT TAKE?

CHICAGO. NOW.

I WAS LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU, WHITNEY.

=GASP=

I THOUGHT YOU'D STILL BE IN JAIL. I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER.

MAN, YOU HAVE A GOOD LAWYER.

PARKER?

I DID IT, WHITNEY.

YOU LOOK AMAZING.

SO DO YOU.

STOP IT.

I MEAN IT.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN OUT OF--WHAT ARE YOU *DOING?*

NO!

WHAT ARE *YOU DOING?!*

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WEAR THAT MASK ANYMORE, WHITNEY.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO CALL YOURSELF MADAME MASQUE.

MY *SCARS!*

I TOOK THEM AWAY, WHITNEY.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING ANYMORE.

WHAT DID YOU DO?

I DID IT, WHITNEY.

I GOT THE POWER BACK.

I HAVE POWER THEY CAN'T TAKE AWAY FROM ME.

THEY'RE TALKING TO ME, WHITNEY.

THEY KNOW WHAT HAS TO BE DONE NEXT.

Alan Davis, Paul Neary & Paul Mounts

Avengers #11 variant

AVENGERS 10

THE QUEST FOR THE GEM I HAVE BEEN CHARGED WITH PROTECTING WILL TAKE US WHERE NO ORDINARY HUMAN CAN GO.

FAR DEEPER INTO THE OCEAN WORLD THAN MOST HUMANS KNOW EXIST.

FAR DEEPER INTO THE CREVASSE THAN MOST ATLANTEANS CAN PHYSICALLY WITHSTAND.

THERE IS A PLACE FAR BELOW THE SURFACE WORLD, AND EVEN FAR BELOW THE RUINS OF ATLANTIS.

A PLACE WHERE LIGHT DOES NOT EXIST.

A PLACE WHERE THE WATERS ARE SO PRESSURIZED THAT THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN IT AND SOLID EARTH.

IT IS THERE WE MAKE OUR QUEST.

WHEN I WAS CHARGED WITH THE TASK OF GUARDING THE GEM, I KNEW THAT THIS PLACE WAS AS SAFE AS ANYWHERE ON THE PLANET.

NO ONE KNOWS IT IS HERE.

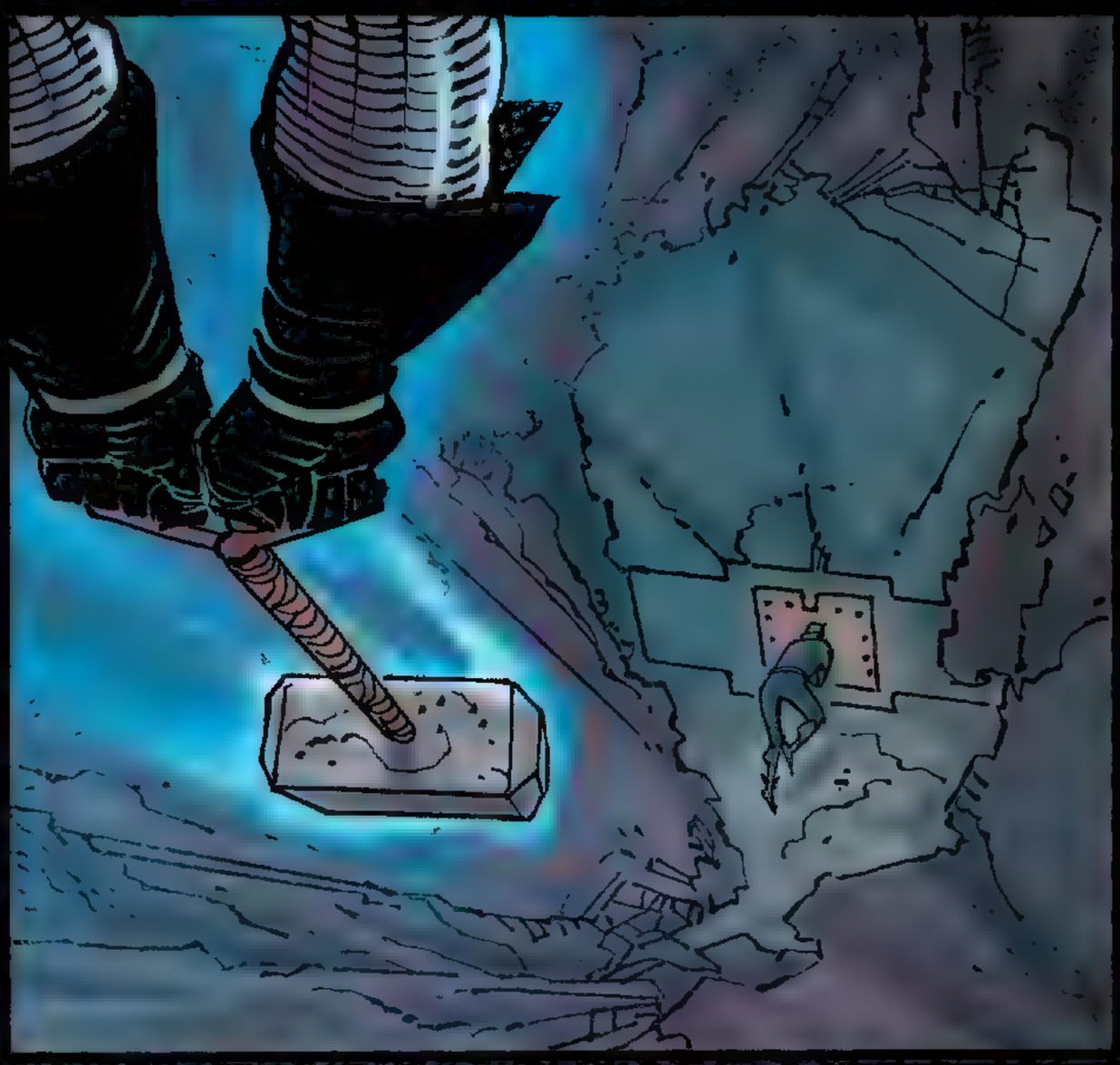
NO ONE WOULD KNOW TO LOOK HERE.

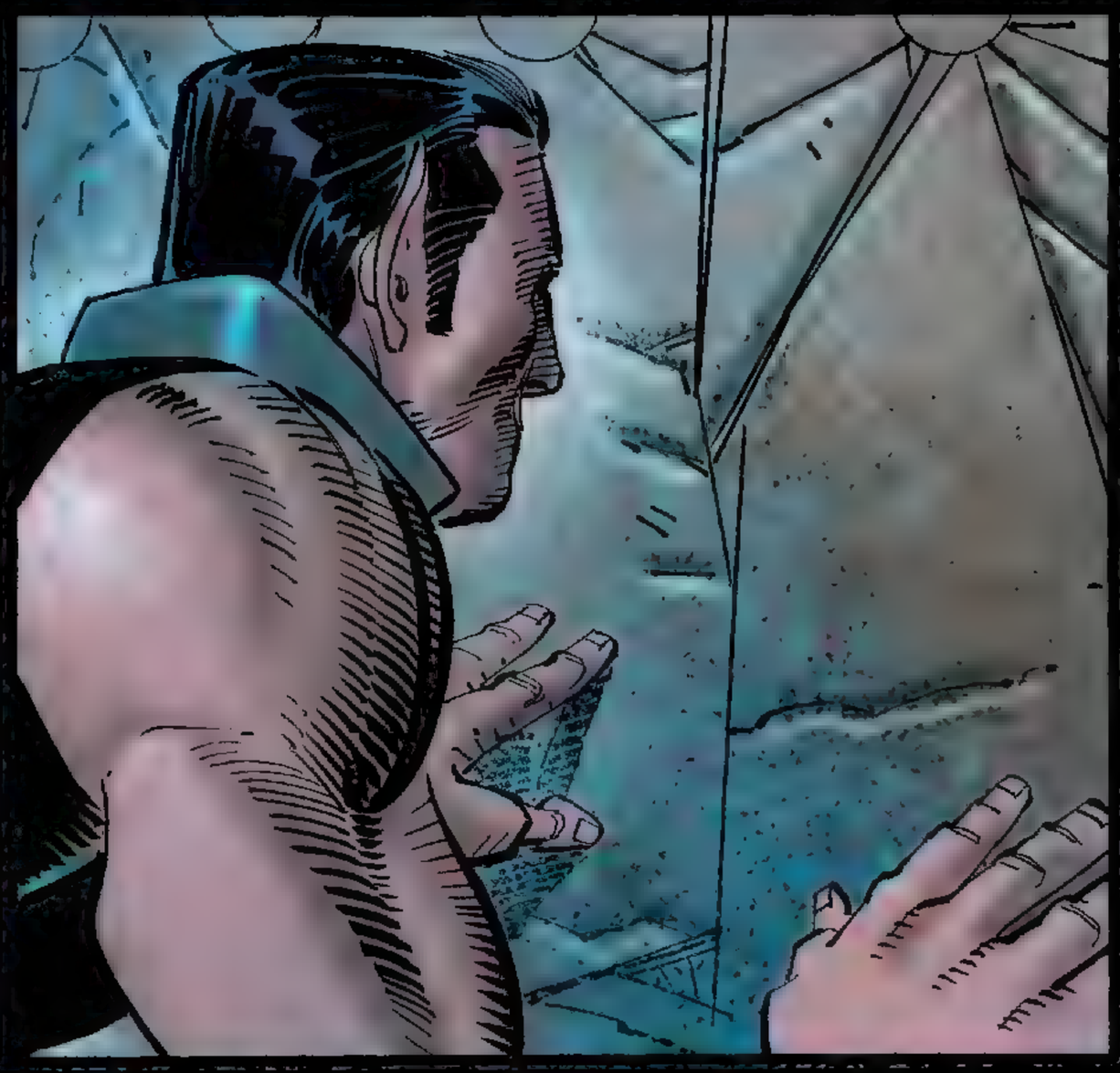
EVEN HE WHO IS CHASING DOWN THE GEMS FOR HIS OWN SELFISH GAIN WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO PURSUE THIS COURSE.

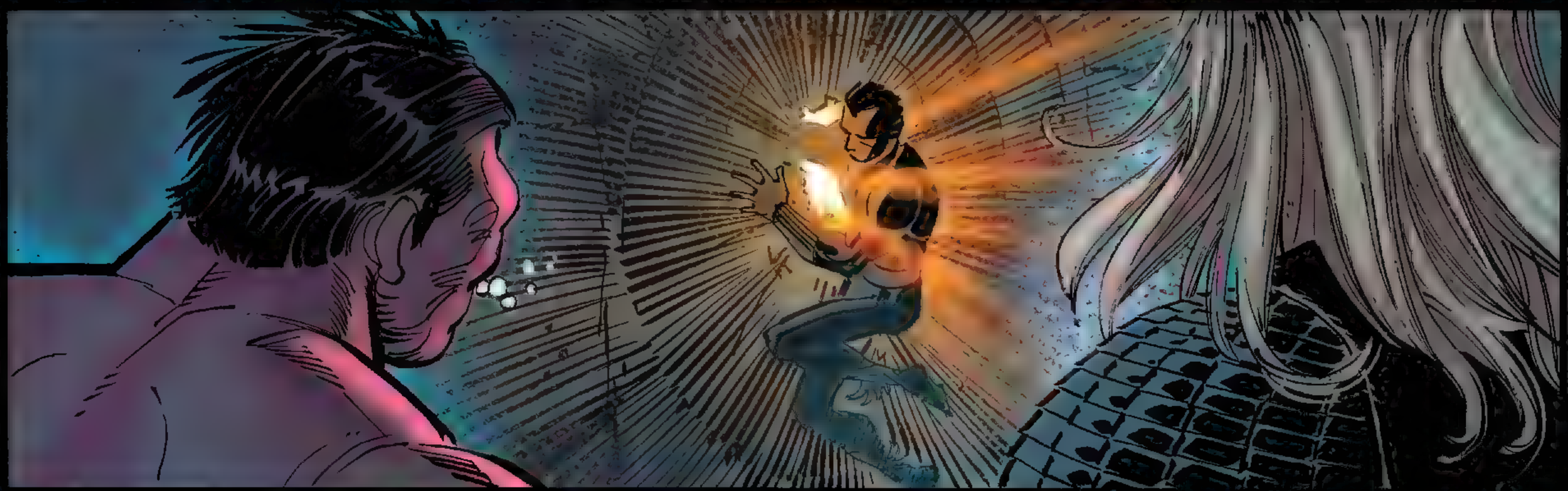
IT WOULD BE...

...IMPOSSIBLE.

FOR INSIDE THE MURKY WATERS LIE HORRORS AND DANGERS UNSEEN BY ANYONE.







WELCOME TO XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS, FORMER HOME OF MY X-MEN.

IT'S STILL SO ODD TO SEE THE SCHOOL CLOSED.

TIMES CHANGE, HENRY.

WHERE'D YOU HIDE THE THING, CHARLIE? IN THE BACKYARD?

FOLLOW ME.

THE BACKYARD WOULD BE THE EASY THING. ANY CHANCE IT'S THE EASY THING?

AFTER YOU, LOGAN.

YEAH, I DIDN'T THINK SO.

WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NEW YORK.

OKAY, A BIG EMPTY ROOM.

THIS WAS THE DANGER ROOM, MISS HILL.

LOVE THE NAME.

I KNOW, RIGHT?

THIS IS WHERE THE X-MEN USED TO TRAIN.

WE HAD SOME DAMN GOOD TIMES IN HERE.

A LITTLE ON THE BARE BONES SIDE.

YEAH, RIGHT.

WHAT AM I MISSING?

THE PROGRAM WAS CREATED TO STOP WHAT WE ARE ABOUT TO DO FROM HAPPENING.

SPECIFICALLY.

THE PROGRAM WAS CREATED TO FIGHT US TO THE DEATH IF NEED BE.

WE'RE ENTERING A PROGRAM?

YES. AND--

AND YOU CAN'T JUST TURN OFF THE PROGRAM?

NO.

WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE US DO?

FIGHT BACK.

IT'S A TRAINING MODULE?

YES.

SO IT'S NOT GOING TO HURT US? IT'S JUST--

BAKOOM

DOES *THAT* ANSWER YOUR QUESTION?!

ALL RIGHT...

HUUAARGH!

SMACK

JAB-OW

HATE TO SAY IT...BUT I KIND OF NEEDED THIS.

GENTLEMEN...

AFTER YOU, PROFESSOR.

WE GOT YOUR BACK.

AND IF I MAY, IN THE FUTURE, TWO WORDS: KILL SWITCH.

I DIDN'T WANT ONE, HENRY.

I DIDN'T WANT THE PROGRAM ABLE TO BE OVERRIDDEN.

I HAD TO KEEP THE GEM SAFE FROM ALL COMERS.

ONE WONDERS WHAT OTHER SECRETS YOU AND YOUR ILLUMINATI ARE KEEPING TO YOURSELVES?

BELIEVE ME, HENRY, THIS IS NOT PART OF THE LIFE I HAD SET OUT FOR MYSELF.

SHAKT!

SURE IT IS, CHUCKIE.

SRCRACK

I WANTED TO BE A SCHOOL TEACHER.

FOLLOW ME.

THERE?

THERE.

YOU SHALL NOT PASS.

THIS IS THE HARD PART, INNIT?

VERY MUCH SO.

OUTSIDE.

HEY...
HEY...
I'M ANT-MAN.
I KNOW.
YOU'RE IRON FIST, HUH.
I KNOW THAT TOO.

I'M ON THE ***COVERT OPS*** AVENGERS TEAM.
YOU PROBABLY SHOULDN'T BE TELLING PEOPLE THAT.
WHAT ARE YOU--LIKE, ONE OF THE ***NEW*** AVENGERS?
KEEP LOOKING TO THE SKY...
I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY STUCK US ON SENTRY DUTY.
SOMEONE'S GOT TO KEEP AN EYE OUT.

THEY JUST DON'T WANT ME DOWN THERE DOING THE FUN STUFF.
I GET THE FEELING SOME OF THEM THINK I'M ANNOYING.

HEY, IS SPIDER-WOMAN SINGLE? DO YOU KNOW?
BECAUSE I GOT TO SAY, THAT IS SOME TOP GRADE KIND OF--
CAN WE JUST FOCUS ON OUR TASK?
I WONDER IF STEVE ROGERS HAS KILLED TONY STARK YET.
OR VICE VERSA, YOU KNOW?

NEW MEXICO.

WELL, THIS IS COMFORTABLE.

IT IS A LITTLE CROWDED.

NO, I WAS TALKING ABOUT MOMMY AND DADDY FIGHTING.

I HEAR THAT.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, SPIDER-MAN?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, NOH-VARR.

I WANT TO KNOW.

YOU OFTEN USE WORDS WHOSE MEANING I COMPREHEND, BUT WHEN *YOU* USE THEM, THEY MAKE LITTLE TO NO SENSE IN CONTEXT OF ONE ANOTHER...

OKAY, BUT...

AND I KNOW YOU ARE DOING IT IN A HUMOROUS FASHION, BUT--

UM--

MY INABILITY TO UNDERSTAND THE REFERENCE POINT IN WHICH YOU ARE USING SARCASM TO MAKE AN OBSERVATION ABOUT THE WORLD AROUND YOU IS VERY FRUSTRATING TO ME.

WELL...

THAT WAS FUNNIER THAN WHAT I SAID ANYHOW.

HE'S TALKING ABOUT THE FACT THAT STEVE ROGERS AND TONY STARK ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF WORLD WAR THREE BECAUSE ROGERS FEELS STARK'S DOING STUFF BEHIND HIS BACK...

WHILE STARK FEELS HE WAS JUST DOING WHAT WAS BEST FOR THE WORLD AT THE TIME HE DID IT.

LIKE HIDING THE INFINITY GEMS.

EXACTLY.

SO STEVE ROGERS WOULD BE THE MOTHER AND TONY STARK WOULD BE THE FATHER.

OR VICE VERSA.

THE MOTHER AND FATHER OF *THIS* GROUP.

EXACTLY.

EXACTLY.

GUYS...

WHAT COUNTRY ARE YOU FROM AGAIN?

HE'S AN ALIEN.

I AM A KREE ENSIGN, MS. JONES.

A SPACE ALIEN?

IN A FASHION.

PRETTY CUTE FOR A SPACE ALIEN.

=PFF=

ARE WE THERE YET?

WE'RE HERE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN... ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO.

AREA 51?

YES, MA'AM.

WHAT ARE WE DOING AT AREA 51, IRON MAN?

I OWN IT.

YOU *OWN* AREA 51?

SINCE WHEN?

THE GOVERNMENT QUIETLY PUT IT UP FOR SALE AND I BOUGHT IT.

I THOUGHT YOU WERE BROKE.

MY BROKE IS NOT THE SAME AS *YOUR* BROKE.

AND THIS WAS YEARS AGO.

LET'S JUST GET THIS OVER WITH.

YOU KNOW, I'LL TELL YOU WHAT'S BOTHERING ME ABOUT THIS WHOLE THING.

WHAT'S BOTHERING YOU IS THAT I'M RIGHT.

WHAT'S BOTHERING ME IS THAT I THINK YOU'RE MORE MAD AT *YOU* THAN YOU ARE AT ME.

WE'VE MADE HARD CHOICES IN OUR LIVES.

WE'VE *ALL* MADE HARD CHOICES.

THIS LIFE THAT WE'VE CHOSEN--THIS LIFE--IT COMES WITH *INSANE* CHOICES THAT WE HAVE TO MAKE EVERY DAY.

TONY STARK VOICE PRINT IDENTIFIED.

WELCOME, TONY.

COMPROMISES THAT WE HAVE TO MAKE *EVERY* DAY.

AND I DON'T THINK YOU LIKE SOME OF YOURS.

WELL, THAT IS JUST--

HOLD ON--WE SHOULD LEAVE SOME SURFACE LEVEL RECON. KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR OUR MYSTERY GUEST.

YES.

HAWKEYE, MOCKINGBIRD, THING. YOU STAY TOP-SIDE.

BOO.

I MEAN, YES, SIR.

I'M JUST HAPPY FER THE QUIET.

GUESS I'LL HEAD TO THE ROOF.

HAVE FUN, DEAR.

YOU'RE COMING TOO.

IT'S CUTE THAT YOU THINK SO.

AND, LISTEN, YOU KNOW, IN FACT NO ONE KNOWS **MORE** THAN YOU...

ANTHONY STARK BRAIN WAVES MATCH COMPLETE.

...HOW MUCH UNBRIDLED EGO COMES WITH THIS JOB.

LUCAS CAGE CIRCULATORY MATCH COMPLETE.

TO BE WHO WE ARE, TO REPRESENT WHAT WE WANT TO REPRESENT...

JESSICA JONES CELLULAR MATCH COMPLETE.

...YOU HAVE TO BE ARROGANT ENOUGH TO BELIEVE THAT YOU CAN DO IT.

SPIDER-MAN SKRULL DETECTION NEGATIVE.

IT'S EGO THAT GOT US HERE AND IT'S EGO THAT ALLOWS US TO STAY.

DOCTOR REED RICHARDS OPTIC SCAN MATCH COMPLETE.

YES, WE TOOK THE DAMN INFINITY GEMS, AND WE DID SO BECAUSE WE THOUGHT THEY WERE SAFE WITH US.

SHARON CARTER DENTAL RECORDS MATCH COMPLETE.

IT WAS ARROGANCE AND IT WAS EGO.

VALKYRIE BRAIN WAVES MATCH COMPLETE.

AND IT WAS ABSOLUTELY RIGHT. FOR ALL THIS TIME.

NATASHA ROMANOVA DENTAL MATCH COMPLETE.

SO, THOUGH YOU MAY THINK IT'S YOUR JOB TO JUDGE ME AND THE OTHERS FOR WHAT WE DID HERE...

DOCTOR STEPHEN STRANGE OPTICAL MATCH COMPLETE.

I THINK IT'S NOTHING.

NOTHING COMPARED TO THE THINGS WE'VE HAD TO DO TO KEEP THE WORLD SAFE.

NOTHING.

NOH-VARR CELLULAR STRUCTURE MATCH COMPLETE.

MAYBE I JUST DON'T SEE THE WORLD THE SAME WAY YOU DO.

COMMANDER STEVE ROGERS SKRULL DETECTION NEGATIVE.

SAYS THE MAN WHO SPENT MOST OF HIS ADULT LIFE DRESSED IN THE AMERICAN FLAG.

LET'S GO.

THIS IS IT.

OH, HELLO...

THE HOOD!

AVENGERS ASSEM--!!

TOO LATE.

CLANK

OKAY...

WHERE TO NOW?

HUH.

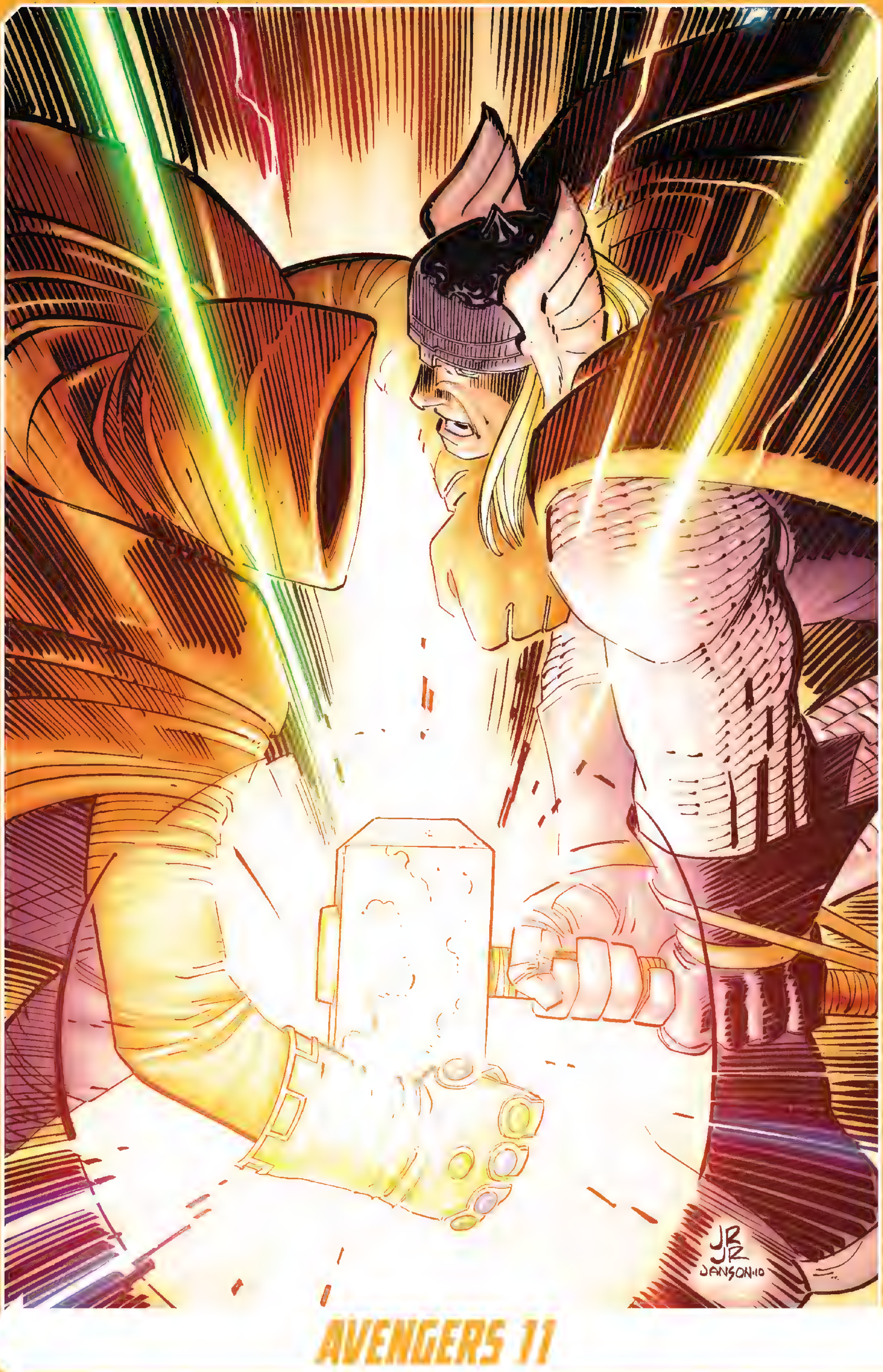
OKAY.

AND WHY DID WE END UP HERE, WHER-EVER HERE IS?

OH.

WELL...

NICE WEATHER FOR IT.


JR
JR
JANSON·10

I AM *UATU* THE WATCHER.

I AM ONE OF MANY.

BUT I AM THE ONE WHO HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH THE TASK OF OBSERVING AND RECORDING YOUR HISTORY SINCE BEFORE HUMANITY REIGNED AS THE DOMINANT SPECIES.

I HAVE WATCHED YOU SUCCEED AND I HAVE WATCHED YOU FAIL.

I HAVE WATCHED YOU LOVE AND I HAVE WATCHED YOU HATE.

I HAVE SAT QUIETLY AND WATCHED BECAUSE THAT IS THE TASK THAT THE UNIVERSE HAS BEQUEATHED TO ME.

I HAVE, ON OCCASION, FAILED BECAUSE MY LOVE AND RESPECT FOR YOU HAS BECOME OVERWHELMING.

BUT I KNOW THAT IF I EVER ACT ON YOUR BEHALF AGAIN, MY POSITION WILL BE TAKEN FROM ME, MY POWER STRIPPED FROM ME, AND I WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO LOOK AT THE MAGNIFICENCE OF THE HUMAN RACE EVER AGAIN.

SO IT IS WITH A HEAVY HEART THAT I RECORD THE FOLLOWING...

MADNESS...

BEHOLD, YOUR MIGHTIEST HEROES IN A FIGHT FOR THEIR LIVES AND YOUR FUTURE.

THEY QUEST TO OBTAIN THE ALL-POWERFUL INFINITY GEMS BEFORE THE NE'ER-DO-WELL PARKER ROBBINS CAN GET HIS HANDS ON YET ANOTHER.

FOR HE WHO CONTROLS THE SIX INFINITY GEMS CONTROLS THE INFINITY GAUNTLET...

AND HE WHO HOLDS THE INFINITY GAUNTLET HOLDS THE POWER OF INFINITY IN HIS HAND.

THE POWER OVER LIFE AND DEATH.

THE POWER OVER BEING AND NOT BEING.

STILL THINE HAND, THIEF OF THIEVES!

WELL, THOR, HULK, FISH GUY... AIN'T ***THIS*** SOME KIND OF--

IMPERIUS REX!

HE'S GOT THE GEMS ***IN HIS HANDS!*** HE'S GOT THE--

IF THE CRIMINAL MIND OF PARKER ROBBINS IS SUCCESSFUL IN COLLECTING THE INFINITY GEMS, HE WILL BE THE FIRST MORTAL HUMAN WHO HAS EVER DONE SO.

PARKER ROBBINS DOESN'T KNOW THIS.

ALL PARKER ROBBINS KNOWS IS THAT HE NEEDS POWER TO LIVE IN THE WORLD THAT HE HAS CHOSEN TO TAKE PART IN.

A WORLD WHERE AN ASGARDIAN PRINCE, AN ATLANTEAN KING, AND A MUTATED WARRIOR HULK WOULD GATHER TOGETHER AND SEEK TO DO BATTLE WITH HIM.

THE ASGARDIAN PRINCE, THOR ODINSON, WAS GIFTED AN INFINITY GEM BY ITS HOLDER PRINCE NAMOR, THE SUB-MARINER.

BUT THE ONE GEM OF TIME IS NOT ENOUGH AGAINST THE THREE ROBBINS HAS COLLECTED ALREADY.

PARKER ROBBINS HOLDS THE PURPLE, THE RED AND THE YELLOW: SPACE, POWER, AND REALITY.

SPACE, REALITY, AND POWER.

NO MATCH AT ALL.

YET PARKER ROBBINS IS BUT A CHILD.

HE KNOWS NOT THE POWER HE POSSESSES OR HOW TO WIELD IT.

HE DOES NOT KNOW THE GEMS' HISTORY OR WHAT THE COST OF THEIR EXISTENCE WAS TO THEIR PRIOR OWNERS.

HE DOES NOT KNOW HOW CLOSE TO ETERNAL BLISS HE STEPS OR HOW CLOSE TO THE ABYSS OF NOTHINGNESS HE TEETERS.

HE DOES NOT KNOW THE COSMIC GATES THAT HAVE OPENED AROUND HIM OR THAT HE HAS WOKEN THE SLUMBER OF MANY WHO WOULD POSSESS THE GAUNTLET THEMSELVES.

HE DOES NOT KNOW THAT HE IS NOW A MEMBER OF A MORE COSMICALLY ENLIGHTENED SOCIETY OF POWER BROKERS.

A HIGHER SPIRIT WOULD KNOW THAT THE GEMS MAKE THE PHYSICAL MORTAL BODY A SECONDARY CONCERN.

THAT HE NEED NOT STRUGGLE TO KEEP HOLD OF THE GEMS.

THAT ALL HE NEED DO IS WILL THEM TO HIS COMMAND.

#$@#$!!

RRRHAAGGH!!

ALL HE WOULD NEED TO DO IS WILL THE HULK TO NOT BE.

PARKER IS A NAÏVE FOOL--IN OVER HIS HEAD--AND THAT IS WHY ALL HE CAN THINK TO DO NOW IS STRUGGLE.

THAT IS WHY ALL HE CAN THINK TO DO IS FIGHT.

THE POWER OF A GOD, AND ALL HE CAN THINK TO DO IS FIGHT.

BUT WHAT PARKER ROBBINS DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT THIS RED HULK...

WHAT ALMOST NO ONE KNOWS...

THE RED HULK IS A REPENTANT SOUL.

THE RED HULK NEEDS TO WIN THIS DAY.

HE NEEDS TO PROVE HIMSELF WORTHY.

THE RED HULK WAS ONCE A MAN--A HARDENED WARRIOR, A MILITARY GENERAL WHO LIVED BY AN UNWAVERING CODE OF GOD, COUNTRY, HONOR...

AND ACCORDING TO THIS CODE, HE MADE DECISIONS IN HIS LIFE THAT WOULD HORRIFY OTHERS...BUT TO HIM, THEY WERE BUT THE MOST NECESSARY OF NECESSARY EVILS.

FOR EVERY TERRIBLE THING HE DID, HE IS SURE THAT HE SAVED LIVES.

BUT EVERY ONE OF THOSE DECISIONS COST HIM A PIECE OF HIS SOUL...UNTIL HE FOUND HIMSELF IN THE FORM YOU SEE HIM NOW.

TRAPPED AS A HULK.

TRAPPED IN THE FORM OF HIS ONCE MORTAL ENEMY.

RED IS POWER...

RED IS POWER...

BUT HE HAS DECIDED TO EARN HIS SOUL BACK.

HE HAS DECIDED TO SHOW THE HEROES AND PEOPLE OF THIS WORLD THAT HE IS WORTHY OF THEIR RESPECT.

AND HE KNOWS THAT THIS MOMENT, RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW...

THIS MOMENT IS THAT CHANCE.

AND BECAUSE OF THAT...NOTHING WILL STOP THE HULK.

RED IS POWER!!!

AS FOR THE GATHERED FORCES OF THE AVENGERS, THEY FIND THEMSELVES VIOLENTLY THROWN ACROSS THE DESERTS OF NEW MEXICO.

SMASHED AGAINST THE ROCKS OF A MOUNTAIN-VIEW PLAIN.

IT IS TONY STARK, THE IRON MAN, WHO WAKES FIRST.

HE IS SURE, AT FIRST, THAT HE LIES AMONG THE DEAD.

THAT HE IS THE SOLE SURVIVOR OF PARKER ROBBINS' FIRST ATTACK.

BUT HE IS LUCKY THAT PARKER IS SO NAÏVE.

THEY ALL ARE.

ARMOR.

ALL SYSTEMS ONLINE.

PARKER ROBBINS' LOCATION?

PLEASE HOLD.

YOU KNOW I HATE WHEN YOU SAY THAT.

7.4 ENERGY FLUCTUATION OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN 732 FEET SOUTHWEST.

YEAH, I SEE IT.

IT IS TONY STARK WHO FEELS THE BURDEN HEAVILY THIS DAY.

IT IS HE WHO FEELS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MADNESS THAT HAS ENSUED.

HE AND HIS ILLUMINATI HID THE GEMS FROM THE UNIVERSE AND TOOK RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR WELL-BEING UPON THEIR OWN SHOULDERS.

IT WAS UNDER THEIR WATCH THAT THE GEMS FOUND THEIR WAY TO THIS.

HE BLAMES HIMSELF FOR WHAT IS HAPPENING...

AND MANY OF HIS PEERS DO AS WELL.

HIS NEXT ACTIONS WILL DICTATE NOT ONLY THE FUTURE OF REALITY, BUT HIS FUTURE AS AN AVENGER.

COMBATANTS IDENTIFIED.

I SEE WHO IT IS.

REARRANGE 77 PERCENT POWER CELLS TO SHIELDS.

LISTEN CAREFULLY TO THE SON OF ODIN, PARKER ROBBINS!

THE POWER YOU WIELD IS NOT YOUR OWN.

IT IS DANGEROUS AND NOT TO BE TRIFLED WITH.

DROP THE CURSED INFINITY GEMS WHERE YOU STAND AND MY ACTIONS TO YOU WILL BE FORGIVING.

DROP YOURS FIRST.

THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO *NEGOTIATE*, THOR!

I SAY IT IS.

WE HAVE TWO GEMS APIECE!!

YOU KNOW NOT WHAT THEY ARE AND HOW THEY WORK.

YOU WILL *KILL* YOURSELF BEFORE YOU PROPERLY DISCOVER THEIR TRUTH.

I SAY TO YOU THIS--DROP THE GEMS AND SPARE YOURSELF.

I'LL TELL YA WHAT *TIME* IT IS! IT'S CLOBBERIN' TI--

CRIPES.

ACTUALLY, I'M DOING THE MATH IN MY HEAD AND I DON'T THINK THIS IS OUR FIGHT ON ANY LEVEL, BEN.

"I SAY TO YOU THIS?"

IT IS HOW I SPEAK.

I HAVE A BETTER IDEA: HOW ABOUT I TAKE THE GEMS FROM YOUR COLD, DEAD, SANCTIMONIOUS HANDS!

AND WITH THAT, THE CALL RANG OUT.

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!!

THE WARRIOR'S CRY FOR THE HEROES' LAST STAND FROM THE MOUTH OF THE MAN NAMED STEVE ROGERS.

THE MAN WHOSE WATCH THIS IS.

FOR THE ONCE AND FUTURE CAPTAIN AMERICA WILL NOT LET THE WORLD DIE THIS DAY.

AND HE WILL NOT LET ANY AVENGER'S BLOOD BE SACRIFICED FOR NOTHING.

AAAAAND... HE'S GONE!

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TRIED TO *REASON* WITH HIM!! YOU HAD HIM ON THE ROPES.

YOU MAY BE RIGHT.

I *AM* RIGHT.

BUT IT WAS THE NOBLE PLAY.

WE KEEP MOVING. WE STICK TO THE PLAN.

WE STILL HAVE TWO GEMS.

TWO IS GOOD.

BUT SO DOES HE.

ANYONE ELSE HAPPEN TO NOTICE THE WATCHER IS HERE...YOU KNOW, *WATCHING!*

WE KNEW WE WERE IN A LOT OF TROUBLE, SPIDEY.

WHICH HE ONLY SEEMS TO DO WHEN WE'RE REALLY IN *A LOT* OF TROUBLE.

YEAH, BUT I DON'T NEED HIM STANDING THERE *REMINDING* ME!

USE THAT NERVOUS ENERGY FOR WHAT WE HAVE TO DO NEXT.

CRY?

HELP THE OTHERS ON THEIR QUEST.

"AND HOPE XAVIER AND THE OTHERS HAVE FARED BETTER THAN US."

YOU SHALL NOT PASS.

LISTEN TO ME!

I AM CHARLES XAVIER AND I AM YOUR CREATOR.

THIS IS MY HOME AND YOU ARE GUARDING WHAT IS MINE.

I KNOW WHO YOU ARE, XAVIER, AND I KNOW OF YOUR COMPATRIOTS.

YOU SHALL NOT PASS.

MAYBE YOU SHOULD TELL IT THAT *IT* WILL NOT PASS AND THEN HER HEAD WILL SHORT-CIRCUIT AND--

I APPRECIATE THE LEVITY, HENRY.

YES, I CAN TELL.

CAN I GUT HER NOW?

SHE WAS MADE TO WITHSTAND YOU.

I'M GOING IN.

WAIT, MS. MARVEL, THERE IS SOMETHING ELSE HERE...

SOMETHING ELSE?

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

AND NOW, PARKER ROBBINS HAS THREE INFINITY GEMS AGAIN.

FOR ONCE SOMEONE GAINS ONE GEM THEN ANOTHER...THE GEMS' DESIRE TO BE REUNITED GUIDES THE OWNER TO THE NEXT ONE.

PARKER ROBBINS WISELY KNEW HE WOULD NOT WIN A BATTLE AGAINST THE GATHERED AVENGERS ON AN EQUAL FOOTING...

SO HE LET THE GEMS GUIDE HIM HERE...

WHERE THE MUTANT CHARLES XAVIER LED ANOTHER TEAM OF AVENGERS TO WHERE HE HAD SECURED THE MIND GEM.

TO NO AVAIL.

BUT XAVIER IS A POWERFUL TELEPATH.

SKILLED IN NAVIGATING THE MULTIPLE CAVERNS OF THE HUMAN MIND.

HE DIGS DEEP INTO PARKER'S CONSCIOUSNESS AND LOOKS FOR A WAY TO STOP HIM.

ALL THE WHILE, XAVIER FEELS HIS COMPATRIOTS BEHIND HIM...

HE FEELS WOLVERINE HOLDING BACK HIS HOMICIDAL TENDENCY AND OBEYING HIS FORMER TEACHER'S ORDER TO STAND BACK...

HE FEELS SPIDER-WOMAN BLASTING HER PHEROMONE POWER DIRECTLY AT PARKER, TRYING TO DO WHATEVER SHE CAN TO HELP CONFUSE HIM.

HE FEELS THE MAN WHO CALLS HIMSELF MOON KNIGHT WRESTLING WITH HIS DIFFERENT PERSONALITIES, DEVISING A PLAN OF ATTACK...

HE FEELS HIS FORMER STUDENT DR. HENRY McCOY, THE BEAST, DOING THE MATH IN HIS HEAD ON JUST HOW MUCH DAMAGE PARKER ROBBINS WILL DO TO THE WORLD, AND THE NUMBERS ARE NOT PROMISING.

CHARLES XAVIER IS BREAKING HIS OWN PERSONAL RULES NOW-- DIGGING INTO THE MIND OF A MAN WITHOUT HIS PERMISSION...

ATTEMPTING TO PLANT COMMANDS THAT ARE AGAINST PARKER ROBBINS' OWN WILL.

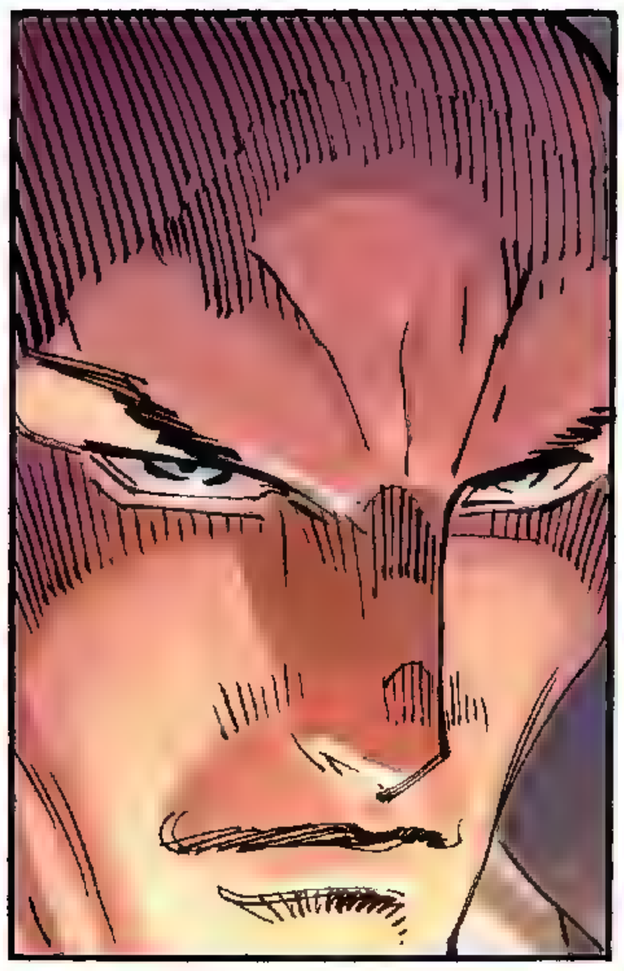
BUT XAVIER WAS PUT IN CHARGE OF THE BLUE INFINITY GEM.

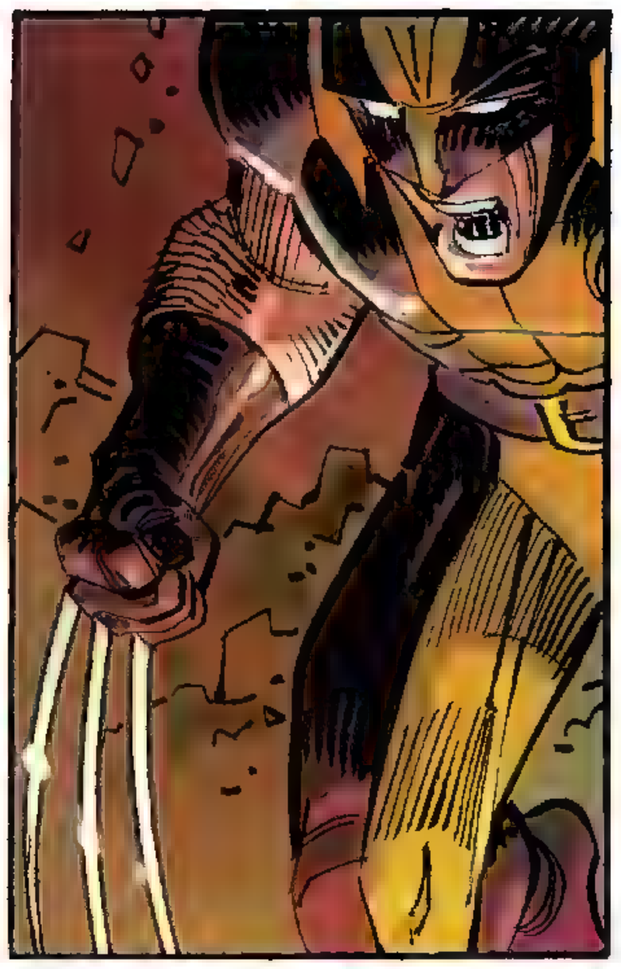
THE MIND GEM.

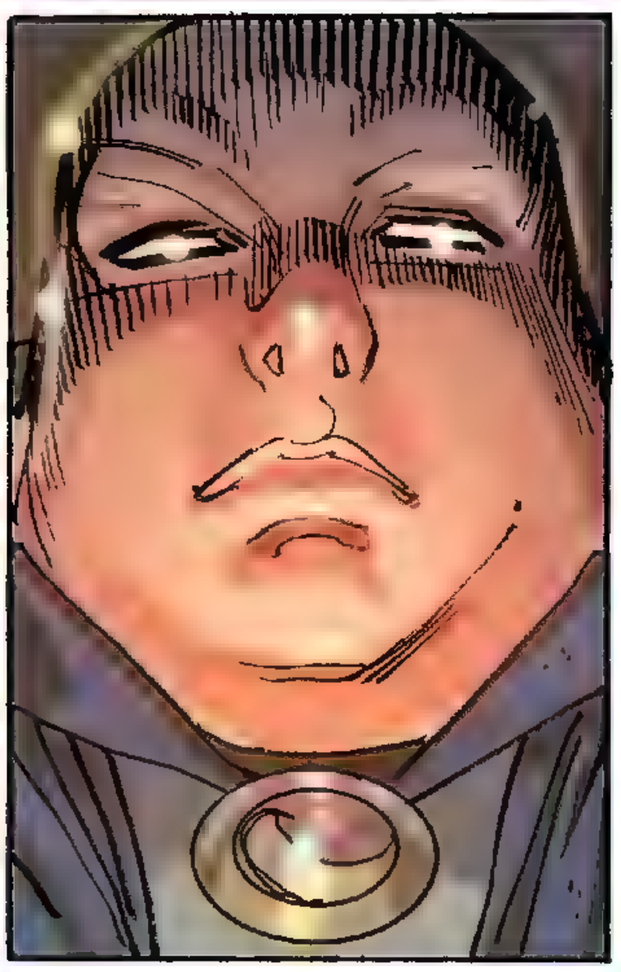
IT ALLOWS THE HOLDER TO BOOST HIS MENTAL POWERS AND TO GAIN INSIGHT INTO THE THOUGHTS AND DREAMS OF ANYONE.

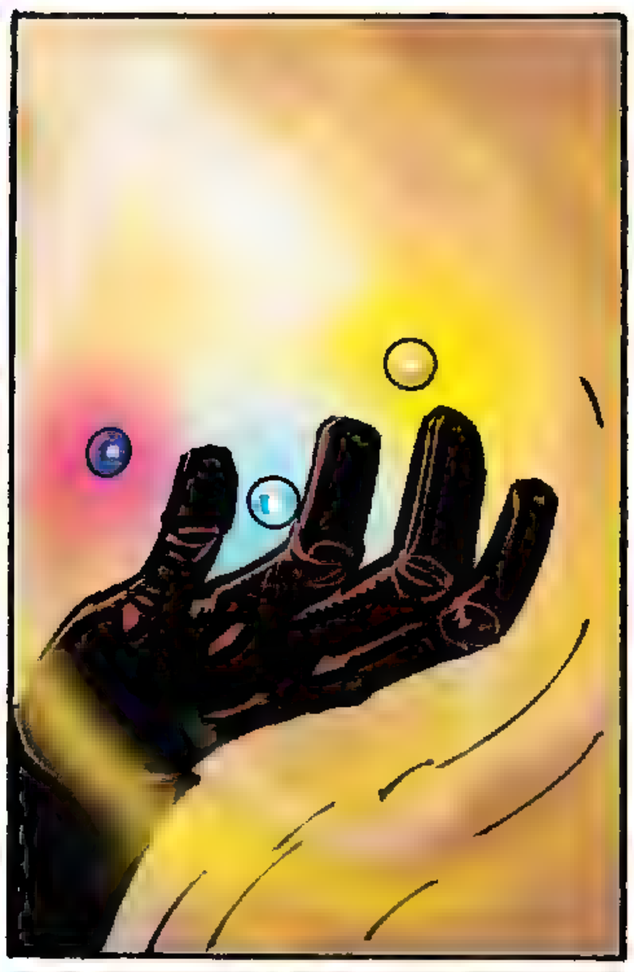
WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING HOW HE'S DOING IT, PARKER ROBBINS IS FIGHTING BACK AGAINST THE MOST POWERFUL TELEPATH ON THE PLANET.

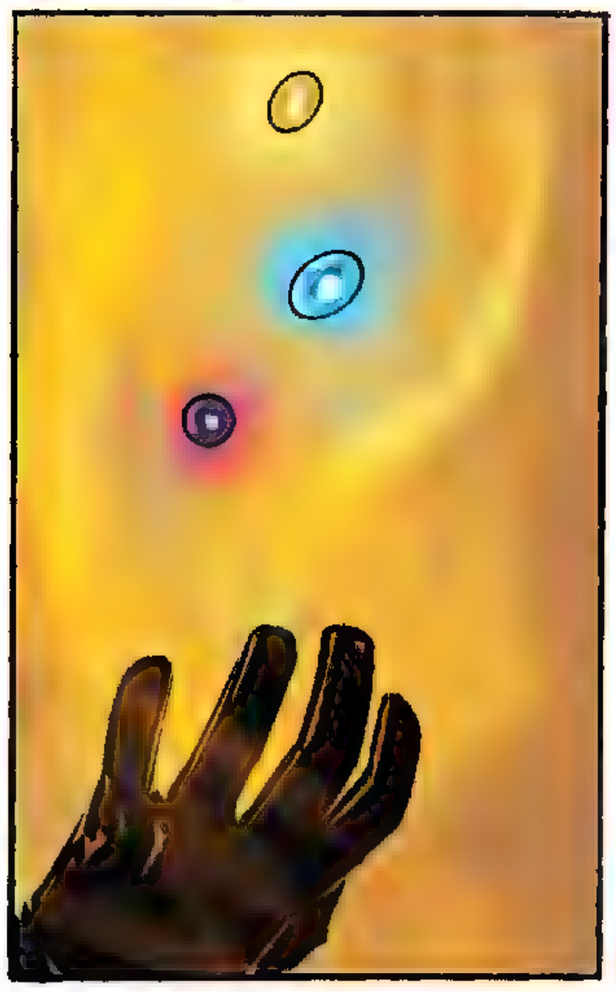
AND XAVIER IS FIGHTING A BATTLE MORE POWERFUL THAN ANYTHING HE'S EVER COME UP AGAINST BEFORE.











CHARLES XAVIER LOSES.

AND NOW, PARKER ROBBINS HOLDS IN HIS HAND THE MIND GEM, THE REALITY GEM AND THE SPACE GEM.

TOGETHER THESE GEMS TAKE PARKER ROBBINS TO THE LOCATION OF THE FINAL HIDDEN GEM.

THE GEM THAT WAS BEQUEATHED TO DR. STEPHEN STRANGE.

AT THE TIME, DR. STRANGE WAS THE UNCONTESTED SORCERER SUPREME OF THIS DIMENSION.

WHICH MADE HIM THE MOST POWERFUL MAGE IN YOUR WORLD.

DR. STRANGE HID HIS GEM IN A PLACE ONLY A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE IN THE WORLD KNOW ABOUT...AND ONLY A SMALL HANDFUL WOULD HAVE ANY IDEA OF HOW TO NAVIGATE...

THE FINAL INFINITY GEM WAS TUCKED AWAY SAFELY IN A PLACE CALLED ASTRAL PLANE.

WRAPPED INSIDE A POWERFUL CONTAINMENT SPELL CALLED THE CRIMSON BANDS OF CYTTORAK.

NO ONE BUT DR. STRANGE KNOWS WHERE IT IS, BUT THE GEMS ARE CALLING TO EACH OTHER.

THEY ARE BRINGING EACH OTHER CLOSER.

BUT AS I TOLD YOU BEFORE, WITH EVERY STEP FORWARD, PARKER ROBBINS BRINGS WITH HIM UNKNOWN DANGER.

FOR HE IS NOT THE ONLY PERSON IN THE UNIVERSE DESPERATELY LOOKING FOR THE GEMS.

THERE ARE ALWAYS OTHERS.

THIS IS THANOS.

MASTER OF DEATH.

HE NOW POSSESSES THE SOUL GEM.

HE KNOWS EXACTLY HOW TO WIELD THE OTHERS.

AVENGERS 12

THE ASTRAL PLANE.

MY NAME IS THANOS.

MASTER OF DEATH.

I HAVE AN OFFER FOR YOU, PARKER ROBBINS.

HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?

YOU SEEK THAT WHICH IS MINE, PARKER.

IT'S INSULTING TO THINK I WOULDN'T KNOW YOU BY NOW.

WHAT'S *YOURS?*

THE INFINITY GEMS. THEY BELONG TO ME.

REALLY? HOW COME I'VE NEVER HEARD OF YOU?

I WAS HOPING YOU HAD.

BUT IT WOULD SEEM THAT UP UNTIL RECENTLY SUCH MATTERS WERE BEYOND YOUR STATION.

WELL, IF THEY'RE YOURS, HOW COME THEY AIN'T IN YOUR HAND?

BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN KEPT FROM ME.

UNTIL NOW.

HERE IS MY OFFER:

GIVE ME THE GEMS YOU HOLD AND IN RETURN I WILL GRANT YOU THE REALITY YOU DESIRE.

OR I CAN KEEP THE GEMS AND DO IT MYSELF AND YOU CAN GO #$@#$ YOURSELF.

NO HUMAN HAS EVER HELD THE GEMS TOGETHER.

NO HUMAN HAS EVER WORN THE INFINITY GAUNTLET THAT COMBINES THEM.

THE POWER YOU SEEK IS MORE THAN YOUR FORM CAN WITHSTAND.

IF YOU ATTEMPT THIS QUEST ANY FURTHER...YOU WILL SIMPLY CEASE TO BE.

IT IS NOT A THREAT. THESE ARE SIMPLY THE FACTS OF EXISTENCE.

YOU *WILL* CEASE TO BE.

SO, FINE.

SO WHAT DO YOU CARE?

I'LL CEASE TO BE.

THEN YOU CAN TAKE THE BIG GLOVE AND YOU CAN HAVE YOURSELF A DANCE PARTY.

I DON'T GET THE SELL HERE.

BUT IN THE FINAL THROES OF YOUR BEING, YOU MAY INADVERTENTLY DESTROY OR ALTER OUR REALITY IN A WAY THAT DOES NOT SUIT ME.

I HAVE SEEN THIS HAPPEN BEFORE. I MADE THAT MISTAKE BEFORE.

IT IS PART OF THE REASON WHY THE GEMS HAVE BEEN KEPT FROM ME.

YOU ARE HOLDING IN YOUR HAND THE POWER OVER TIME, SPACE, AND REALITY.

THESE ARE NOT ABSTRACT CONCEPTS.

THESE ARE THE PHYSICAL BUILDING BLOCKS OF EXISTENCE.

THEIR SLIGHTEST MISUSE CAN REND THIS REALITY ASUNDER.

AND YOU WILL HAVE NO KINGDOM TO RULE AND NO PLACE IN THE MULTIVERSE.

YOU WILL BE LOST OR DEAD.

HOLDING A POWER YOU CANNOT COMPREHEND.

BUT YOU CAN.

ABSOLUTELY.

I AM A CREATURE BORN SPECIFICALLY *FOR* THIS.

I HONOR MY PROMISES AND COMMITMENTS.

YOU GIVE ME THE GEMS AND I WILL BEQUEATH YOU ALL THAT THIS WORLD HAS TO OFFER YOU.

YOU GET ALL YOU DESIRE... WITH NO COST TO YOUR BEING.

I WILL DESTROY ANY WHO WOULD CROSS YOU AND YOUR ALLEGIANCE WOULD BE MY HONOR.

UH-HUH.

WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

NOWHERE YOU HAVE EVER HEARD OF, BUT I CAN--

I'M ASKING BECAUSE I'M WONDERING IF THEY HAVE POKER WHERE YOU'RE FROM.

I DO NOT KNOW WHAT THAT IS.

IT'S A GOOD THING.

BECAUSE YOU'RE ONE *TERRIBLE* BLUFFER.

HMM.

THEN LET ME OFFER YOU PLAN B.

WHAT'S PLAN B?

THE VISHANTI SPELL OF ILLUSION. BOOK OF VISHANTI, PAGE 4564.

WE TAKE THEM FROM YOU BY FORCE.

ASTRAL PLANE FORCED EJECTION SPELL. BOOK OF FIRE, PAGE 45.

FORCE?

AND HOW DO YOU PLAN ON--?

HULK WITH A POWER GEM.

YOU SON OF A--!

IMPERIUS REX!

I NEED A BATTLE CRY!

AAAGH!!

THIS IS IRON MAN! HE HAS THE REALITY GEM!

I REPEAT, THE HOOD STILL HAS THE--

GO AWAY.

HAA!

DON'T!

WHAT ARE YOU--?

WHERE ARE--?

STOP THIS!

STOP IT RIGHT NOW!

YOU'RE GOING TO RUIN THE WORLD.

GOOD!

I DIDN'T *CARE FOR IT!*

THAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ME AND YOU!

YOU'RE TRYING TO SAVE THE WORLD AND I DON'T *CARE* FOR IT *ONE WAY OR ANOTHER!*

DO YOU THINK I GIVE A RAT'S &#@ ABOUT *ANYTHING OR ANYONE* ENOUGH NOT TO RIP REALITY RIGHT IN HALF?!

ALL I CARE ABOUT IS WHAT I GET.

GIVE ME YOUR GEM OR I WILL FIND A REALITY WHERE YOUR UGLY FACE DOESN'T EXIST.

AND I'LL START BUILDING FROM SCRATCH.

JUST TAKE IT EASY.

GIVE ME THE POWER GEM OR YOU CEASE TO EXIST.

AND WOULDN'T EVERYBODY BE SO SAD IF *THAT* HAPPENED!

YOU *JUST* HAD IT.

GUESS WHO HAS IT NOW.

COME ON, GUESS...

I DON'T--

AND IN CASE THE MOMENT IS LOST ON YOU... IT'S OVER.

UH-HUH.

WELL, I STILL HAVE THE REALITY GEM.

HOW ABOUT A REALITY WHERE A GUY LIKE YOU DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A--?

THE GEMS SPEAK TO EACH OTHER.

THEY WANT TO BE AS ONE.

AND THEY SEEM TO LIKE *YOU* JUST ABOUT AS MUCH AS *WE* DO.

SO... WHAT?

YOU DON'T THINK I KNOW ABOUT YOU GUYS?

YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW YOUR DIRTY LITTLE SECRETS?

THERE AIN'T ONE OF YOU, NOT ONE OF YOU, THAT WOULDN'T DO THE SAME THING I DID.

IF YOU LOST YOUR POWERS, NOT ONE OF YOU WOULDN'T TEAR THIS WORLD IN HALF TO GET THEM BACK.

BUNCH OF HYPOCRITES.

BUNCH OF RICH HYPOCRITES.

AND, MAY I REMIND YOU, IT TOOK ALL OF YOU--*ALL* OF YOU--TO TAKE ME ON.

OKAY, SO, NOW YOU GOT THE GEMS.

YOU GET THE GLOVE.

SO WHAT ARE *YOU* GOING TO DO?

SAME THING I WAS GOING TO.

MAKE THE WORLD THE WAY YOU WANT IT AND *SCREW ANYONE* WHO DOESN'T SEE IT THE SAME WAY.

WHAT WILL I DO WITH IT?

I COULD... HMMM.

I COULD TAKE BACK THINGS I SHOULD NEVER HAVE SAID OR DONE.

I CAN CREATE A WORLD WITHOUT WAR.

I CAN MAKE A WORLD WITHOUT ALCOHOL OR DRUGS.

WITHOUT HATE OR JEALOUSY.

BUT THEN IT WOULDN'T BE THE WORLD WE LIVE IN.

NOTHING WOULD BE LEARNED. NOTHING WOULD BE GAINED.

WE WOULDN'T ADVANCE AS A SPECIES.

IN FACT, I BET WE WOULD DEVOLVE.

I COULD MAKE THE WORLD THE TECHNOLOGICAL PARADISE I KNOW IT ONE DAY WILL BE.

I CAN SEE MY FATHER AGAIN.

I COULD BRING JANET BACK.

BUT BEING SUCH A RICH HYPOCRITE...

I'M ONLY GOING TO DO TWO LITTLE THINGS.

I BET.

FIRST, I PUT YOU BACK WHERE YOU BELONG.

NO.

NO NO NO NO.

17

NOOOOO!!!

NOOOOOOOOOO!!!

DID YOU KILL HIM?

OF COURSE NOT, LUKE.

WHY NOT?

UH, BECAUSE THAT'S NOT WHAT WE DO.

I WOULD NOT HAVE MINDED.

I WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE THAN FINE WITH IT.

AND WHAT'S THE SECOND THING, TONY?

YOU SAID TWO THINGS.

THE SECOND THING...

THE SECOND THING IS: I USE THE POWER OF THE GEMS TO WISH THE GAUNTLET AND THE GEMS OUT OF EXISTENCE.

YOU'RE A BETTER MAN THAN I.

WELL PLAYED, MY FRIEND.

THANK YOU, THOR.

I WOULD HAVE-- I REALLY WOULD HAVE ADVISED *AGAINST* WHAT YOU JUST DID.

TAKE IT OFF THE TABLE AND WE NEVER HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ANY OF THIS EVER AGAIN.

WELL, IN THEORY, COMMANDER.

IN REALITY, REED.

IT'S DONE.

IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...

IT'S BEEN A DAY.

I'M SORRY IT ALL WENT DOWN THIS WAY.

IS EVERYONE OKAY?

NO.

CAN WE PLEASE GO HOME, LUKE?

THE WORLD ALMOST CAME TO AN END, I'D LIKE TO GO HOME AND HUG MY BABY.

LET'S.

WAIT? IS HE OUT? IS TONY STARK OUT OF THE AVENGERS?

AFTER THAT BIT OF AMAZING HE DID THERE?

I'LL DEAL WITH THAT TOMORROW.

TODAY, I HAVE ONE MORE THING...

YOU.

HULK, YOU BROUGHT THIS EMERGENCY TO US...

YOU HELPED PLAN OUR WAY THROUGH IT...

AND YOU HELPED EXECUTE THE PLAN PERFECTLY...

I LIKE THE WAY YOU THINK AND I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL THAT YOU ARE ***DESPERATE*** TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT WITH THE WORLD.

AM I RIGHT?

YOU'RE-- YOU'RE RIGHT.

THERE IS NOT A PERSON ON THIS TEAM THAT HASN'T BEEN LOOKING FOR A CHANCE TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT WITH THE WORLD.

AND WATCHING YOU TODAY...YOU ACTED LIKE AN AVENGER.

SELFLESS, SMART...

I WANT YOU ON THE TEAM.

WELCOME TO THE AVENGERS.

PLAY NICE.

I BELIEVED YOU, STARK.

I BELIEVED YOU DESTROYED IT.

WELL, DOCTOR, I'VE LIVED LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN A HUGE MISTAKE ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

BECAUSE...?

BECAUSE, NAMOR, THE UNIVERSE IS NOTHING BUT CAUSE AND EFFECT.

ACTION AND REACTION.

THE UNIVERSE WOULD HAVE... ***RESPONDED.***

SOMEHOW.

MAYBE NOT.

THANOS COULD HAVE SHOWN UP FOR REAL.

LET'S DO WHAT WE CAME HERE TO DO.

NOW YOU SEE?

NOW YOU SEE WHY WE DO THIS?

NOW YOU SEE THAT THERE ARE JUST SOME THINGS NOT FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION?

THERE ARE THINGS WE HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF QUIETLY.

SOME THINGS THE WORLD, EVEN THE AVENGERS, ARE BETTER OFF **NOT** KNOWING ABOUT.

OKAY, TONY...

I'M WITH YOU.

I'M IN.

BUT LET'S ALL TRY TO FIND BETTER HIDING PLACES THIS TIME.

NEW AVENGERS ANNUAL 1

MY NAME IS SIMON WILLIAMS.

I USED TO BE KNOWN AS WONDER MAN.

I USED TO BE AN AVENGER.

BACK WHEN THAT REALLY MEANT SOMETHING.

I KNOW WHAT I'M ABOUT TO TELL YOU IS NOT A ***POPULAR*** IDEA.

I KNOW THAT WHAT I'M ABOUT TO TELL YOU FLIES IN THE FACE OF HOW I'VE LIVED MY LIFE UP ***UNTIL*** NOW.

AND MAYBE WHAT I'M TELLING YOU FLIES IN THE FACE OF WHAT ***YOU*** BELIEVE.

BUT THE AVENGERS ARE ***WRONG.***

THE IDEA OF A GROUP OF SUPER-POWERED PERSONS GATHERING TOGETHER AND DECIDING WHAT'S BEST FOR THE WORLD... IS ***WRONG.***

THERE IS SOMETHING VERY SEXY ABOUT THE IDEA. SOMETHING VERY APPEALING.

SURE, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT.

AND THAT'S WHY I WAS ONE OF THEM FOR SO LONG...

BUT NOW I SEE CLEARLY THAT I WAS WRONG.

THEY ARE WRONG.

YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME?

HERE ARE THE TOP FIVE WORST THINGS THAT EVER HAPPENED TO THE WORLD...

AND ALL OF THEM ARE BECAUSE OF THE AVENGERS.

ULTRON

"ONE OF THE FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THE AVENGERS, DR. HENRY PYM, CREATED AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE KNOWN AS ULTRON.

"A FOUNDING MEMBER.

"THE SECOND THIS INTELLIGENCE BECAME SELF-AWARE IT ***TURNED*** ON THE HUMAN RACE...

"ULTRON IS STILL OUT THERE.

"A GENOCIDAL ***KILLING*** MACHINE LIVES AMONG US.

"AND EVERY DAY IT GETS ***SMARTER*** THAN IT WAS THE DAY BEFORE--

"IT WAS ***BUILT*** TO BE SMARTER THAN US.

"AND EVERY DAY IT PLOTS A MORE ELABORATE PLAN TO DESTROY US.

"ULTRON WILL DESTROY THE WORLD...AND THE AVENGERS CREATED ULTRON.

SCARLET WITCH

"WANDA MAXIMOFF.

"THE SCARLET WITCH.

"THE MUTANT-BORN DAUGHTER OF A TERRORIST WHO ***NEVER*** HAD FULL CONTROL OF HER REALITY-ALTERING POWERS.

"RIGHT UNDER THE AVENGERS' COLLECTIVE NOSE THIS POOR WOMAN ***COMPLETELY*** FELL APART.

"RIGHT UNDER THE AVENGERS' COLLECTIVE NOSE SHE TORE REALITY IN HALF AND DECIMATED AN ENTIRE SPECIES.

"THE SCARLET WITCH IS STILL ALIVE.

"THE SCARLET WITCH HAS NEVER PAID FOR HER CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY.

"THE SCARLET WITCH HAS NEVER RECEIVED THE HELP SHE DESPERATELY NEEDS AND DESERVES.

"AND BECAUSE OF THIS... THE AVENGERS ARE TO BLAME FOR THE NIGHTMARE THAT IS THE STORY OF THE SCARLET WITCH.

"NOTHING DESCRIBES THE FAILURE OF THE IDEA OF THE AVENGERS MORE THAN THE FACT THAT TWO OF THEIR GREATEST WARRIORS, IRON MAN AND CAPTAIN AMERICA, PUT EGO BEFORE COUNTRY.

"WAR IS A PART OF LIFE....I'M NOT NAÏVE.

"BUT THIS WAR... THIS WAS A WAR ABOUT NOTHING.

"THEY ALLOWED AVENGERS TO DIE AT THE HANDS OF OTHER AVENGERS BECAUSE NEITHER ONE OF THEM WAS MAN ENOUGH TO BACK DOWN FROM A FIGHT.

"AND NOW?

"NOW THAT THE WAR IS OVER? NOW THAT THE BLOOD HAS SPILLED?

"EVERYTHING IS EXACTLY THE *SAME*.

"THE AVENGERS HAVE SHAKEN HANDS AND MADE UP.

CIVIL WAR

"IT WAS ALL FOR NOTHING.

"IT WAS A WAR WITHOUT MEANING.

THE INCREDIBLE HULK

"FROM THE EARLIEST DAYS, THE VERY FIRST DAY OF THE AVENGERS...

"THE NIGHTMARE MONSTER KNOWN AS THE HULK HAS BEEN GIVEN A FREE PASS.

"ALLOWED TO ROAM THE EARTH ***NO MATTER WHAT*** HORROR HE BRINGS TO THE INNOCENT PEOPLE OF THE WORLD.

"NO MATTER HOW MUCH DAMAGE.

"NO MATTER HOW MANY HE KILLS.

"THE FACT IS THAT, IN ITS EARLIEST INCARNATION, THE AVENGERS ACTUALLY EMBRACING THE HULK AS A TEAMMATE WAS THE ***FIRST SIGN*** THAT THE AVENGERS WERE A FLAWED CONCEPT AT BEST.

"THE HULK IS STILL OUT THERE.

"AND NO ONE IS LIFTING A FINGER TO STOP HIM.

"EVERY LIFE HE RUINS IS ***BLOOD ON THE HANDS*** OF ***EVERY SINGLE MEMBER*** OF THE AVENGERS.

DARK AVENGERS

"NORMAN OSBORN AND ROBERT REYNOLDS.

"THE GREEN GOBLIN AND THE SENTRY.

"THE CORE IDEA OF THE AVENGERS FAILED SO COMPLETELY THAT NORMAN OSBORN, A KNOWN BIPOLAR SCHIZOPHRENIC WITH MULTIPLE PERSONALITY DISORDER, WAS ABLE TO WREST CONTROL OF THE AVENGERS FRANCHISE ***OUT FROM UNDER*** TONY STARK.

"NOT ONLY THAT... HE RECRUITED ***CRIMINALS*** FROM EVERY WALK OF LIFE TO STAND AS AVENGERS.

"AND WORST OF ALL...HE MANIPULATED ROBERT REYNOLDS, THE SENTRY.

"A SICK MAN. A SICK AND ***POWERFUL*** MAN.

"TONY STARK PROMISED HE WOULD NEVER LET HAPPEN TO THE SENTRY WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SCARLET WITCH.

"I HEARD HIM TELL THE SENTRY THIS MYSELF. FIRSTHAND.

"HE PROMISED HIM.

"AND HE WAS RIGHT. HE ***DIDN'T*** LET IT HAPPEN.

"WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SENTRY WHEN HE LOST CONTROL OF HIS POWERS WAS ***WORSE*** THAN WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SCARLET WITCH.

"THE AVENGERS MURDERED HIM."

I WARNED THEM.

I WARNED THEM FAIR AND SQUARE.

I LOOKED STEVE ROGERS, TONY STARK AND THE MIGHTY THOR RIGHT IN THE EYE AND I TOLD THEM TO STOP.

I TOLD THEM EXACTLY WHAT I AM TELLING YOU NOW.

BUT THEY WOULDN'T LISTEN TO ME.

I EVEN GOT IN THEIR WAY ONCE OR TWICE IN AN ATTEMPT TO ILLUSTRATE TO THEM HOW WRONG THEY ARE.

BUT ***NOW*** I SEE STANDING AROUND WAITING FOR THEM TO SCREW UP AGAIN IS NOT THE SMART PATH.

THAT'S WHAT ***THEY*** DO.

THEY WAIT UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE.

THEY WAITED AROUND FOR THE SCARLET WITCH AND THE SENTRY AND NORMAN OSBORN TO BLOW UP IN THEIR FACES...

IF ***WE*** STAND AROUND AND WAIT FOR ***THEM*** TO HAPPEN TO THE WORLD AGAIN... WE ARE NO BETTER THAN THEY ARE.

AND MY POINT IS...I THINK WE ***ARE*** BETTER THAN THEM...

WHAT WE NEED TO DO IS--WHAT WE ***HAVE*** TO DO IS BE ***PROACTIVE.***

ANTI-VENOM

D-MAN

ATLAS

ETHAN EDWARDS

GOLIATH

SO MY QUESTION TO YOU IS...

DO YOU BELIEVE WHAT I BELIEVE?

ARE YOU READY TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT?

CENTURY

DEVIL-SLAYER

CAPTAIN ULTRA

AVENGERS MANSION.

YOU BROUGHT AN EXTRA BOTTLE?

YES, MRS. CAGE.

I HAVE A FULLY-LOADED DIAPER BAG, I HAVE SPF 50 SUNBLOCK, AND MY CELL PHONE IS CHARGED.

I'M JUST SAYING IT'S THE FIRST TIME THE BABY'S BEEN OUT OF THE HOUSE WITHOUT US.

I'M ON IT.

SHE'S GOT IT.

MA'AM, I WORK FOR *YOU*.

IF YOU'RE ***UNCOMFORTABLE*** WITH ME LEAVING THE HOUSE WITH HER, I CAN STAY AND PLAY IN THE BACKYARD.

NO, NO, YOU GO.

YOU GO.

I'M MORE THAN HAPPY TO TRY THIS ANOTHER--

GO.

I'M CRAZY.

SHE REALLY IS.

GO.

SHE'S GOOD.

SHE'S HALF SQUIRREL.

YOU'RE HALF NUTS.

THIS IS THE FIRST MOMENT WE'VE HAD SANS BABY SINCE SHE WAS BORN...

YOU REALLY WANT TO RISK NOOKIE TIME WITH A JOKE LIKE THAT?

NOOKIE TIME?

GET IN THE HOUSE.

THE BABY IS OUT OF THE BUILDING.

HOW MANY OF THEM ARE IN THERE?

I SAW LUKE CAGE AND HIS LADY.

I'M NOT ASKING YOU, BROCK.

I'M ASKING EDWARDS.

EDWARDS HAS X-RAY VISION.

OH, I DIDN'T KNOW THAT.

EDWARDS...

THEY ARE ALL IN THERE.

MOST OF THEM ARE PLAYING A POKER GAME.

LUKE CAGE AND HIS WIFE ARE HEADED UPSTAIRS.

THERE IS A WOMAN WITH A STREAK OF RED HAIR WORKING ON A LAPTOP IN THE KITCHEN.

THAT IS VICTORIA HAND.

AND AN ASIAN GENTLEMAN IN THE BATHROOM.

I DON'T KNOW WHO--OH, THAT WOULD BE WONG.

IS CAROL DANVERS IN THERE? BLONDE HAIR?

SHE'S PLAYING CARDS.

OKAY.

ATLAS...

GO KNOCK ON THE DOOR.

ON IT.

GO!

GO!

GOOO!

SLAMM

@#$@!

RRRUUUMMMBBBLLLEEERRRUUUMMMBBBLLLEEERRRUUUMMMBBBLLLEE

WAAGGH!

HO!

@#$@!

#@#$@!

WHAT NOW?

WHAT THE HELL IS--?

RRRUUUMMMBBBLLLEEEE

RRAA!!

SON OF A--!

@#$@!

GRAAKSKH

SWEET CHRIS--!

PLEASE, SIMON, PLEASE TELL ME THIS ISN'T HAPPENING!

I WARNED YOU, CAROL.

I WARNED ALL OF YOU!

PLEASE TELL ME CHUBBY ME IS A SKRULL! PLEASE!

YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE *ME?*

ARE YOU MY SELF-LOATHING?

SIMON?!

SCREW HIM! WHO THE HELL ARE *THESE* GUYS?

WE ARE YOUR LESSON LEARNED.

WHATEVER *THAT* MEANS!

=KOFF=...

=KOFF=...

AVENGERS PRIORITY ALERT CODE.

DELTA. INTEL. CASPIAN. CORNWALL.

THIS IS VICTORIA HAND.

AVENGERS MANSION IS UNDER ATTACK.

THIS IS-- OW!--THIS IS NOT A DRILL.

RATTLE RATTLE

THIS IS WHAT I GET FOR CALLING IT NOOKIE.

$#%@#!

GRRAASSHH

SLAM

PLEASE TELL ME THIS ISN'T YOU, SIMON!

PLEASE TELL ME THIS IS SOMETHING--

I TOLD YOU TO STOP THIS.

PLEASE, SIMON--

I WARNED YOU.

DON'T KNOW WHAT THE HELL THEY MAKE THIS BUILDING OUT OF, BUT--

SLAM

SPOK

OWW!

YOU TELL THE AVENGERS TO STOP AND THEN I WILL STOP.

YOU KNOW IT *DOESN'T WORK*, CAROL!

THINK OF WANDA! THINK OF ROBERT!

IT *DOESN'T WORK!*

SIMON... I PROMISE YOU I WILL GET YOU HELP.

SERIOUSLY... WHO ARE THESE GUYS?

I'M WORKING ON IT!

DID YOU CALL THE OTHERS?

SPOCK

I DID.

I KNOW HIM!

YEAH? WHAT ABOUT HIM?

THAT ONE.

HIS NAME IS ETHAN EDWARDS.

RRRR!

HE CAN FLY, SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH, ENDURANCE, DURABILITY, REFLEXES, X-RAY VISION...

HE ALSO CAN BECOME INTANGIBLE AT--

HUUAARR!

OH! OH!

HE CAN PROJECT HIS BREATH INTO A CONCUSSIVE--

FROOM

--FORCE.

TWO @#$@ING GIANTS?

SHOW ME THE LAB! WHERE IS IT?!

SPLOK

AAAAAAA!

MY HOUSE!

HHURGGHHH!

GUYS!

THAT'S CENTURY, THAT'S D-MAN, THAT'S A GUY NAMED DEVIL-SLAYER...

GREAT, LET'S MAKE 'EM ALL NAMETAGS!

YOU KNOW *ME!* I'M *D-MAN!*

AND I SAY FAKE SPIDER-MAN IS A *MENACE!*

(JUST F.Y.I.)

AND, UH, ANTI-VENOM SCREWS UP MY POWERS.

CAPTAIN ULTRA--THAT'S *CAPTAIN ULTRA!*

HE'S AFRAID OF FIRE!

THEN LET'S LIGHT HIM ON FIRE.

DAVITINI'S SPELL...

YES.

WOLF

...OF ILLUSION.

AAAIIEE!

SMACK

@#$%!

YOU OKAY?

NO!

WHAT IS THIS?

CRAZY PEOPLE.

I HATE CRAZY!

I HATE IT, LUKE!

CRASH

YOU BROKE MY NOSE, YOU ¢$@#!

AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO YOU ARE!

AAGH!

NO!

NOT MY FIRST RODEO, BUD.

I DON'T GET THIS-- I *KNOW* YOU, I KNOW THIS GUY.

YOU'RE A GOOD GUY. I MEAN, RIGHT?

WELL, THEN I'M DOUBLY ANNOYED.

YOU *KNOW* ME.

YOU KNOW ME!

YOU SAID THAT BEFORE, BUB.

GUYS, LISTEN!

I THINK THEY'RE ALL HEROES.

THE BUILDING CAN'T TAKE MUCH--

HHAARRR!

KCKCCCRUMPLE

CRUUMMBBLEE

AAGH!

WOW.

CLINK

ALL RIGHT, NOW YA... NOW YA GONE AND MADE ME ANGRY.

YOU SHOULD SURRENDER.

IT'S--

WHOOSH

CRACK

AGH!

CRURACK

SKUWACK

BOO AND YAH!

HA!

CRACK

OH, MY GOD.

IS--IS THIS LIKE A STUNT OR SOMETHING?

STUNT?

SOMEONE SHOULD CALL SOMEONE!

JM MISSION

NICE.

I'M EXHAUSTED!

DID-- DID WE WIN?

WE SHOULD, UH, MAYBE GET OUT OF HERE?

WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO NOW?

WHERE'S SIMON?

I SAW HIM UP IN THE-- UH-OH.

INCOMING!

HO!

KABOOM

WE WON?!

WE-- WE *REALLY* WON?

YEAH, MAYBE THIS IS OUR *CALLING*.

THIS IS THE BIGGEST WIN I'VE EVER HAD.

HUH.

EVER.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW?

LET'S UNMASK THEM...

NO.

I KNOW *WHO* THEY ARE.

IT DOESN'T MATTER *WHO* THEY ARE. IT MATTERS *WHAT* THEY ARE.

AND NOW THEY KNOW TOO.

THEY KNOW *EXACTLY* WHAT THEY ARE.

YOU DID IT, BOYS.

THAT WAS CLOSE TO PERFECT.

SO...WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

NEXT TARGET.

WHICH IS?

AVENGERS ANNUAL 1

COMMANDER ROGERS, YOU NEED TO SEE THIS.

THIS IS AVENGERS MANSION.

RIGHT NOW?

IS THIS LIVE?

THIS IS 44 SECONDS AGO.

I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF RUNNING IDENTITY CHECKS ON THE ASSAILANTS.

THEY ALL CAME UP.

THE QUINCARRIER.
FLOATING HEADQUARTERS OF THE SECRET AVENGERS.
PRESENT LOCATION: 1000 FEET OVER CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

THEY-- ACCORDING TO THIS THEY WERE ALL SORT OF HEROES AT ONE TIME.

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE.

YES, SIR.

ALL OF THEM, SHARON.

YES, SIR.

JEEZ.

YEAH, UH, WE COULD USE A LITTLE HELP HERE...

THIS IS MARIA HILL.

WE NEED A FULL MED VAC PLATOON DOWN HERE AT AVENGERS MANSION.

AND I NEED A CLEANUP CREW. CALL DAMAGE CONTROL.

NOW. *RIGHT* NOW.

WHAT DID HE SAY TO YOU, BENJAMIN?

WHICH ONE?

SIMON WILLIAMS. WONDER MAN. WHAT DID HE--?

HE SAID HE WAS HERE TO MOP THE FLOOR WITH US.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED.

AND HE SAID HE WARNED US THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN.

BUT I DON'T RECOLLECT ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

HE DID WARN US, LOGAN.

WE HOPED IT WAS FALSE BRAVADO.

NEXT TIME, MAYBE, YA GIVE US A HEADS UP IF SOMEONE IS COMIN' KNOCKIN' ON OUR DOOR?

WE DIDN'T THINK HE'D GO THROUGH WITH IT.

UGH...

WHAT'S *WRONG* WITH HIM?

HE WAS AN AVENGER. HE WAS OUR FRIEND.

WHAT'S HAPPENED?

I, PERSONALLY, ME?

I DON'T NEED TO *EXAMINE* IT TOO THOROUGHLY.

WE JUST NEED TO SHUT IT DOWN.

EXACTLY.

WHO THE HELL DOES THIS GUY THINK HE IS?

HE TOLD ME THE AVENGERS ARE A DISASTER.

THAT WE'RE TO BLAME FOR WANDA, FOR JANET. FOR EVERYTHING.

HOW COULD HE *POSSIBLY* THINK THAT?

WHAT MADE HIM CRACK LIKE THIS?

I-I CAN'T GET DOCTOR STRANGE TO REVIVE.

DON'T MOVE HIM, WONG.

MEDICAL HELP IS ON ITS WAY.

OW.

THIS CANNOT BE IGNORED.

HE CROSSED THE LINE.

IT WON'T BE, THOR.

HE NEEDS HELP.

MAYBE SO, BUT HE NEEDS TO BE *PUNISHED* FOR HIS ACTIONS.

WE'VE GOT INCOMING.

WHERE'S JESSICA?!

WHERE'S THE BABY?!

SON OF A BITCH *THREW ME INTO THE BRONX!*

HOLD STEADY, LUKE CAGE.

WE ARE HERE TO HELP.

@#$ ATTACKED MY HOME.

JESSICA?!

I'M HERE! I'M OKAY.

KIND OF...

WHERE'S THE BABY?

WHERE'S *MY BABY?*

I SCANNED THE ENVIRONMENT I BELIEVE I HAVE HER ON RADAR.

IS THAT HER?

IS IT-- IS IT OKAY TO COME OUT?

THANK GOD.
I-I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
GIRL, YOU DID PERFECT.
JUST PERFECT.
IF I HAD MONEY I'D GIVE YOU A NANNY RAISE.
YOU'RE OKAY, DOREEN.
IT'S--IT'S VERY DIFFICULT TO NOT HELP IN THE FIGHT.
IT'S NOT MY NATURE TO JUST--
YOU DID SOMETHING MUCH MORE IMPORTANT.
YOU DID *EXACTLY* WHAT YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO DO.
WHY? WHY DID THEY DO THIS?
STARK, I *WANT* HIM.
I *KNOW* HE'S YOUR PAL, BUT--
I'M NOT GOING TO PROTECT HIM, CAGE.
THIS IS OFF-THE-CHARTS INSANE, WHAT HE DID.
YOU *FIND* HIM.
ALL OF THEM.
I WANT THEM ON THE RAFT, IN JAIL, TONIGHT.
I HAVE MY SATELLITE SYSTEMS ON HIGH ALERT. AS SOON AS WE--
I THINK I FOUND HIM...

THAT SON OF A...

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!

I WILL PUT OUT THE FIRES.

FAWOOSHHH

I HAVE THE ENTIRE STRUCTURE ON LOCKDOWN.

THE REST OF YOU, SURROUND THE BUILDING. CONTAIN THIS.

IF YOU ENCOUNTER ANYONE, TRY TO TAKE THE FIGHT *OUT* OF THE CITY.

OKAY, WE HAVE MY TO-DO LIST, NOW WHERE ARE ALL THE BAD GUYS?

THEY MUST HAVE GONE INSIDE AND TAKEN THE BUILDING.

TRY NOT TO HURT MY BUILDING ANY MORE THAN NECESSARY.

HUH. WHERE ARE THEY?

DON'T LIKE THIS.

SIMON!
I'M NOT GETTING ANY READINGS.
THEY *WERE* JUST HERE.
I'M TAPPED INTO THE BUILDING'S SECURITY SYSTEMS.
NO ONE IS HERE. NOT EVEN JARVIS.
THEY KIDNAPPED JARVIS?
NO, NO.
IT'S JUST HIS DAY OFF.
I WANT A DAY OFF.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
YOU WERE HIS BEST PAL, HANK, WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?
THIS IS ALL VERY ODD.
I DON'T KNOW.
CAP, I *FOUND* HIM.
LOCATION?
YEAH, YOU'RE GONNA LOVE THIS...
TURN ON YOUR TV.
WHERE'S THE TV?
I GOT IT.
WHAT CHANNEL, MARIA?
ALL OF THEM!
OH.
NO.

MY NAME IS SIMON WILLIAMS.
SOME OF YOU MIGHT KNOW ME AS AN AVENGER...
SOME OF YOU MIGHT KNOW ME AS AN ACTOR.
I HAD MY PRESS AGENT CALL YOU TOGETHER TO COME CLEAN TO THE WORLD ABOUT MANY THINGS.
I WANT YOU TO HEAR WHAT I AM ABOUT TO SAY FROM MY OWN MOUTH.
UNEDITED.
UNFILTERED.
EARLIER TODAY YOU HEARD REPORTS ABOUT AN ATTACK ON AVENGERS MANSION.
YOU PROBABLY SAW THAT IT HAD BEEN ALL BUT KNOCKED DOWN AND THE AVENGERS INSIDE BROUGHT DOWN WITH IT.
I TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY.
THE REASON WE DID THIS IS BECAUSE CAPTAIN AMERICA AND THE OTHER AVENGERS HAVE LEFT US NO CHOICE.
THE AVENGERS HAVE TO BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS.
FULLY ACCOUNTABLE.
INSTEAD THEY HAVE SURROUNDED THEMSELVES WITH A BUBBLE OF NON-ACCOUNTABILITY.
A SMOKESCREEN OF SELF-CREATED MYTHOLOGY TO HIDE THE TERRIBLE SECRETS THAT EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THE--
THAT'S ENOUGH, WILLIAMS!

YOU'RE DONE. THIS IS ALL DONE!

SHUT IT DOWN!

THE AVENGERS WAS AN IDEA THAT LOOKED GOOD ON PAPER--

AND THEY HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR NUMEROUS GOOD AND NOBLE ACTIONS.

I WILL NOT FOR A SECOND TAKE AWAY ALL THE GOOD THEY HAVE DONE AS INDIVIDUALS AND AS A TEAM.

BUT WITH THAT HAS COME A LAUNDRY LIST OF DEATH, DESTRUCTION AND CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR THAT I HAVE WITNESSED WITH MY OWN EYES.

THAT ALL OF US HAVE BEEN EITHER WITNESS TO OR VICTIMS OF.

SIMON, THAT'S ENOUGH.

AND THE GOOD THEY HAVE DONE DOES NOT OUTWEIGH THE BAD.

IT DOES NOT!

I HAVE WARNED THEM! I WARNED THEM FAIR!

I TOLD THEM THAT I WOULD NOT ALLOW THIS TO CONTINUE.

I GAVE THEM FAIR WARNING TO SHUT IT DOWN.

BUT THEY WERE UNRESPONSIVE.

TODAY, TODAY THEY ARE DONE!

IT'S OVER!

THOR, TONY, STEVE... IT'S DONE.

FOLD THE AVENGERS OR THE TOWER FALLS INTO THE OCEAN!

WHAT THE HELL?

SIMON WILLIAMS, YOU SHAME YOURSELF TODAY.

YOU END THIS CLUB OF LIES OR I TELL THE WORLD WHAT YOU'VE DONE!

I'LL TELL THEM ABOUT ULTRON, I'LL TELL THEM ABOUT THE SCARLET WITCH, I'LL TELL THEM ALL ABOUT THE--

SIMON WILLIAMS, YOU ARE UNDER ARREST!

I DON'T ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR AUTHORITY OVER ME!

AND NOW YOU'LL ENGAGE IN VIOLENCE.

BECAUSE THAT IS WHAT YOU ALWAYS DO!

YOU'LL HIT ME TO SHUT ME UP!

YOU'LL KILL ME TO COVER UP THE TRUTH!

YOU'LL LET THESE PEOPLE BURN TO PROTECT OUR SECRETS.

SIMON, I PROMISE YOU.

WE WILL GET YOU THE HELP YOU NEED.

AS FOR THE REST OF YOU, SURRENDER NOW.

I'M NOT CRAZY, TONY.

I'M SEEING THE WORLD FOR WHAT IT IS AND I SEE YOU FOR WHAT YOU ARE.

I KNOW YOU'LL NEVER SEE IT THIS WAY, YOU HAVE TOO MUCH MONEY RIDING ON IT...

OH, SIMON, WHAT HAPPENED?

TELL ME YOU'RE READY.

SIMON, LAST CHANCE.

SURRENDER.

HE'S NOT KIDDING, SIMON.

SIMON'S IONIC FORM IS CONTAINED.

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE WARNED US, SIMON.

YOU GAVE US A CHANCE TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO SHUT YOU DOWN.

NICE JOB, HANK.

WE GOT HIM QUICK AND EASY.

THIS IS AWFUL.

OH, SCREW HIM.

AS FOR THE REST OF YOU...WE ACCEPT YOUR SURRENDER.

UH, OKAY.

WAIT, NO, *NO!*

NO, *YOU* STAND DOWN.

ALL OF YOU.

YOU THINK WE WILL NOT FIGHT YOU IN FRONT OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.

YEAH, YOU KNOW WHAT? THAT'S RIGHT.

IT IS RIGHT.

BRING IT, YOU, ROIDED UP HUMP!

YOU DON'T THINK WE'RE READY TO--

UH--

OH.

WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

THEY JUST *REMOVED* US FROM THE FIGHT.

THEY TRANSPORTED US.

WE'RE AT-- HOLY CRAP, THIS IS CITI FIELD.

THEY CAN DO THAT?

I'M GONNA HEAVE.

UH, GUYS...

DOES ANYONE KNOW EXACTLY WHY THEY DID THIS?

BECAUSE I HAVE AS MUCH POWER--I HAVE AS MUCH GOING ON AS *ANY OF YOU!*

BUT, IF YOU AIN'T PART OF THE CLUB, SCREW YOU.

WHEN I CAME TO YOU LOOKING TO JOIN, WHAT DID YOU DO?

CAPTAIN ULTRA.
GRIFFIN GOGOL.

DID YOU THINK THAT I WAS JUST GOING TO SIT BACK AND LET YOU *WIPE OUT* WHAT WAS LEFT OF MY PEOPLE AND NOT TAKE EVERY OPPORTUNITY IN THE UNIVERSE TO *HURT YOU BACK?*

MY FATHER WAS A SKRULL.

MY FATHER *INVENTED* THE SUPER-SKRULL.

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

VIRTUE.
ETHAN EDWARDS.

I HAVE SEEN MORE TRUTH THAN YOU WILL EVER KNOW.

THIS DIMENSION IS JUST ONE OF A *TRILLION.*

ALL FOLDED ON TOP OF EACH OTHER. ALL EQUALLY IMPORTANT.

BUT HERE I AM: ON THIS ONE. STUCK HERE.

AND IF THIS DIMENSION IS GOING TO BE THE ONE--THE ONE WITHOUT AVENGERS... HEY, YEAH, I WANT TO BE ON THE WINNING SIDE...

FOR ONCE IN MY *DAMN* LIFE.

DEVIL-SLAYER.
ERIC SIMON PAYNE.

YOU ACT LIKE I HAVEN'T COME TO YOU.

I OFFERED MY SERVICES.

YOU SAID #@$@# YOU, WELL, @#$@# YOU BACK!

ATLAS.
ERIK JOSTEN.

LET'S START WITH THE SO-CALLED SUPERHUMAN CIVIL WAR...WHERE YOU KILLED THE ORIGINAL GOLIATH.

MY BLOOD.

DID YOU REALLY THINK I WAS JUST GOING TO *SIT HERE* AND LET THAT *BE?*

GOLIATH.
TOM FOSTER.

I KNOW YOUR KIND DOES NOT RESPECT THE LIFE CYCLE...BUT WONDER MAN DIED!

SIMON WILLIAMS DIED ONCE.

AND I DON'T FEEL LIKE GOING OVER EVERY HORRIBLE MOMENT OF IT, BUT IT WAS PARTLY MY FAULT.

BUT HE IS BACK.

BACK FROM THE DEAD. IT WAS MY CHANCE TO DO RIGHT BY HIM.

MY SECOND CHANCE.

I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO UNDERSTAND THAT.

CENTURY.
(EXTRATERRESTIAL).

THE COSMIC GAMEMASTER TOLD ME TO--TO RETRIEVE THE SEVEN INFINITY GEMS.

YOU--YOU HAVE THEM. YOU HAVE THEM AND WON'T GIVE THEM BACK.

I-I TRIED TO CALL YOU DIRECTLY, BUT YOU IGNORED ME. YOU ALWAYS IGNORE ME.

I AM JUST A SERVANT. I AM BUT A HUMBLE SERVANT TO THE COSMIC WAVES OF--

D-MAN (DEMOLITION MAN).
DENNIS DUNPHY.

LISTEN, I KNOW THE OTHERS ALL HAVE SOME WHACKED-OUT AGENDAS.

I KNOW.

SOME OF THEM ARE CRAZY. CRAZY CRAZY.

BUT ME, END OF THE DAY, I THINK SIMON WILLIAMS WAS RIGHT.

YOU GUYS DON'T WORK.

ANTI-VENOM.
EDWARD BROCK.

HOW DID IT COME TO THIS?

I'M PRAYING TO GOD THAT YOU-- THAT YOU ARE UNDER SOMEONE ELSE'S CONTROL.

IS IT-- IS IT THE ENCHANTRESS?

IS THIS EVEN SOMETHING YOU COULD TELL ME?

A HINT?

ANYTHING?

PLEASE, SIMON...

I WANT TO HELP YOU.

I LOVE YOU, HANK.

YOU ARE, AND WILL ALWAYS BE, MY BEST FRIEND.

THEN WHY-- PLEASE, WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO *KILL* US?

I DON'T WANT TO KILL YOU.

I'M TRYING TO *STOP* YOU.

AND TALKING DOESN'T *EVER SEEM TO DO IT, DOES IT?!*

YOU'RE *HURTING* PEOPLE.

GOOD PEOPLE.

SO ARE YOU.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

IF IT MAKES YOU FEEL ANY BETTER, THERE IS A VERY GOOD CHANCE THAT I'M NOT EVEN REAL.

WHAT-- WHAT DOES *THAT* MEAN?

I DIED A FEW YEARS AGO.

I DIED. YOU KNOW THIS.

AND THE ONLY REASON I'M HERE TODAY IS BECAUSE WANDA MAXIMOFF MISSED ME, USED HER POWERS, AND BROUGHT ME BACK.

OUT. OF. THIN. AIR.

OH NO.

AND THIS WAS PROBABLY THE FIRST HINT THAT SOMETHING WAS WRONG WITH HER.

BUT BECAUSE IT WAS SOMETHING WE ALL WANTED...WE COULDN'T SEE IT.

NONE OF US.

AND WE DID NOTHING.

AND THAT'S MY POINT.

*WE, YOU, AS AVENGERS ARE ALWAYS TOO CLOSE TO SEE WHAT IT IS WE'RE ACTUALLY **DOING** TO THE WORLD.*

*AND BECAUSE OF THAT, THERE'S **NO WAY** FOR US TO KNOW THE REAL DAMAGE BEING DONE.*

LISTEN TO ME. I AM STANDING OUTSIDE LOOKING IN...

I AM NOT HUMAN...

I AM PROBABLY NOT EVEN REAL...

I WAS BIRTHED OUT OF A CRAZY WOMAN'S MANIACAL DELUSION.

I HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE AND NOTHING TO GAIN.

AND BECAUSE OF THIS...I CAN TELL YOU THAT I'M RIGHT AND YOU JUST DON'T ***SEE IT.***

BUT YOU WILL.

AND SO WILL THE REST OF THE WORLD.

HANK...

I KNOW TONY STARK WELL ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT HE'S GOING TO DO EVERYTHING IN HIS POWER TO KEEP ME LOCKED UP HERE.

I KNOW I AM A THREAT TO YOUR WAY OF LIFE.

I AM.

BUT AS MY BEST FRIEND...

AS SOMEONE WHO LOVES ME...

I WANT YOU TO ***PROMISE*** ME--PROMISE ME YOU'LL KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN...

PROMISE ME THAT--THE SECOND YOU SEE THAT I'M RIGHT...

YOU'LL ***SHUT THEM DOWN.***

PROMISE ME, HANK.

EITHER WAY...

THE WORLD KNOWS NOW.

NO WORD FROM COMMANDER STEVE ROGERS IN RESPONSE TO THE SHOCKING ALLEGATIONS FROM FORMER AVENGER SIMON WILLIAMS.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND, PERSONALLY, WHY WE CAN'T GET MORE **ACCESS** TO CAPTAIN AMERICA.

CAP, THE PEOPLE NEED TO HEAR YOUR SIDE OF IT!

WHAT IS UP? WHAT'S GOING ON OVER THERE?

News HDZ to finally lose elections Crawling toward recovery: State b

THAT'S THE THING--OKAY, THE AVENGERS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A CONTROVERSIAL GATHERING. I MEAN **ALWAYS.**

I GRANT YOU THAT, BUT--

I MEAN, IF YOU REALLY THINK ABOUT IT, WHAT DO WE **KNOW** ABOUT ANY OF THEM?

HOW IS CAPTAIN AMERICA EVEN STILL ALIVE?

IT'S ARROGANCE, REALLY.

YES.

QUESTIONS, **SERIOUS** ALLEGATIONS AND QUESTIONS, HAVE BEEN BROUGHT AGAINST THE IDEA OF THE AVENGERS AND **WHAT?**

WHAT DO WE **GET** FROM STEVE ROGERS?

WE GET **NOTHING.**

WE GET A BLACK CURTAIN. CONE OF SILENCE.

Doctor Brain Drai es $2 Billion Yearly

WHAT'S **GOING ON** OVER THERE THAT AVENGERS ARE CAUSING SUCH HOSTILE AND VIOLENT DISSENT?

I HAVE NO DOG IN THIS FIGHT, I'M JUST SAYING: IT'S **REALLY** INTERESTING THAT **AN AVENGER** VOICES HIS DISPLEASURE TO THE WORLD AND NOW THAT AVENGER **DISAPPEARS.**

BHC live

IT MUST BE NICE TO LIVE IN A WORLD WITHOUT THE PESKY PROBLEMS OF A **JUDGE OR A JURY.**

BUT THE QUESTION IS: HAVE WE **GIVEN** CAPTAIN AMERICA CARTE BLANCHE OR HAS HE JUST **TAKEN** IT FROM US BY FORCE?

WHY CAN'T SIMON WILLIAMS BE HEARD?

I'LL TELL YOU WHY: BECAUSE HE WAS PROBABLY **SPEAKING THE TRUTH!**

NOT TO BE TOO DRAMATIC, BUT MAYBE THE TIME FOR SOMETHING LIKE THE AVENGERS IS OVER.

MAYBE IT'S TOO BIG.

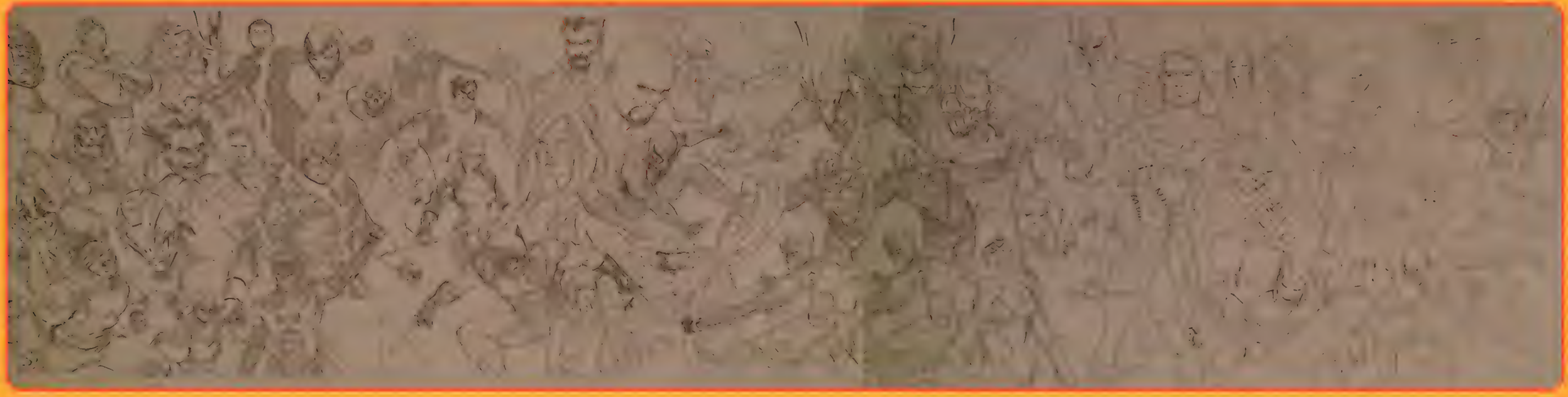
MAYBE IT'S TOO RISKY.

$6.3 billion towards saving the Arctic circle's 15,000 remainin

"MAYBE IT *IS* TOO DANGEROUS."

THEY HEARD.

Phil Jimenez & Patricia D'Armata



Marko Djurdjevic

Hawkeye & Mockingbird #1, Avengers Academy #1, Avengers #1, New Avengers #1, Secret Avengers #1 & Avengers Prime #1
combined variants and cover sketch

John Romita Jr. & Dean White

John Romita Jr. & Dean White

John Romita Jr. | Dean White

Avengers #3 variant

John Romita Jr. & Dean White

John Romita Jr. : Dean White

Avengers #5 variant

MARVEL®
VARIANT
EDITION

THE AVENGERS

Leonel Castellani

Avengers #5 Super Hero Squad variant

Mark Bagley, Andy Lanning & Frank Martin

New Avengers Annual #1 Architect variant

BENDIS REUNITES THE BIG THREE AS HE

REASSEMBLES THE AVENGERS!

If Thor, Captain America and Iron Man can find a way to work together, they may just survive long enough to join Spider-Man, Wolverine and more on a new roster for a Heroic Age! Who will answer the call when Kang the Conqueror strikes from the future? There's worse to come when the Hood makes his move from small-time gangster to big-league bad guy — by hunting the all-powerful Infinity Gems — in a story that will draw in the secretive Illuminati and the not-so-stealthy Red Hulk! Plus: An angry Wonder Man returns, blaming the Avengers for the world's ills. And he's brought his own team of Revengers with him! Fight!

Collecting *Avengers Prime* #1-5, *Avengers* (2010) #1-12 and *Annual* (2012) #1, and *New Avengers Annual* (2011) #1 — written by Brian Michael Bendis; and illustrated by Alan Davis, John Romita Jr. and Gabriele Dell'Otto.

T+

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